



Trump vows veto as Dems try to block emergency order

By ANDREW TAYLOR

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Democrats controlling the House have teed up a vote next week to block President Donald Trump from using a national emergency declaration to fund a wall along the U.S.-Mexico border, accelerating a showdown in Congress that could divide Republicans and lead to Trump's first veto.

The Democrats introduced a resolution Friday to block Trump's declaration, and House Speaker Nancy Pelosi said the House would vote on the measure Tuesday. It is sure to pass, and the GOP-run Senate may adopt it as well. Trump quickly promised a veto. "Will I veto it? 100 percent," Trump told reporters at the White House.

Continued on Page 3



The House Chamber of the U.S. Capitol Building in Washington, Friday, Feb. 22, 2019.

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Many shades of meaning behind 'Medicare-for-all'

By **RICARDO ALONSO-ZALDIVAR**

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) —

"Medicare-for-all" can mean different things to different people.

For some, it's a single government-run health insurance plan for the whole country. To others, it's giving consumers a choice to buy into Medicare or keep their private insurance.

But whatever the form, the proposals are built on the premise that health insurance should be a guaranteed right.

Sen. Bernie Sanders, a Vermont independent seeking the 2020 Democratic presidential nomination, launched the debate over "Medicare-for-all." Now, other Democratic presidential hopefuls are staking out their positions on the concept, which President Donald Trump decries as socialism.

But government-backed insurance is already part of daily life, covering more than 130 million Americans. A new report from the Centers for Medicare and Med-



This Feb. 2, 2015, file photo, depicts a part of a U.S. \$100 bill. A new government report estimates that government will be paying nearly half the nation's health care tab within 10 years.

Associated Press

icaid Services projects that federal, state and local governments will be paying nearly half the nation's health care tab by 2027.

A primer on Medicare and Medicare-inspired plans that have become a central focus for Democrats:

TRADITIONAL MEDICARE

Enacted more than 50 years ago to cover people age 65 and older, Medicare remains the government's flagship health care program. About 60 million are enrolled, including some 9 million disabled people.

Benefits include coverage for hospitalization, doctors' services, prescription drugs, tests and imaging, rehab, medical equipment, and hospice.

But Medicare does not cover long-term care, routine dental care, hearing aids or eyeglasses.

Medicare has significant copayments, and many beneficiaries purchase supplemental private insurance to protect against costs.

With baby boomers aging into Medicare, taxes are not enough to cover future costs. In just seven years — 2026 — it's projected that the program's giant trust fund for inpatient care won't have enough to cover medical bills due.

'MEDICARE-FOR-ALL'

Two bills, one by Sanders and another from House Democrats, would set up a government-run health insurance plan for the entire country. It's also called "single-payer" because a federal agency would pay the bills. Or just "M4A."

Government coverage

would replace private health insurance, including employer-sponsored plans that insure about 160 million people.

Benefits for seniors would be improved beyond what Medicare now offers, with coverage for dental, vision and hearing aids. The House bill includes a new long-term care program.

Patients would not have to pay premiums or deductibles, and cost-sharing would be eliminated or greatly reduced. But taxes would go up significantly. Costs would be limited through government-set payment rates across the health care system.

Neither proposal has a cost analysis from the Congressional Budget Office, but several independent studies have estimated that government spending on health care would increase dramatically, in the range of about \$25 trillion to \$35 trillion or more over a 10-year period.

Democratic presidential hopefuls Sens. Cory Booker of New Jersey, Kirsten Gillibrand of New York, Kamala Harris of California, and Elizabeth Warren of Massachusetts are co-sponsors of the Sanders' plan. So is Oregon Sen. Jeff Merkley, who is considering a run.

Some co-sponsors also support less ambitious proposals to advance the goal of

coverage for all.

MEDICARE BUY-IN

Several Democratic lawmakers have unveiled plans that would let older adults buy into Medicare. The idea would build on the Obama-era Affordable Care Act because ACA subsidies would be available to help pay premiums for those who qualify.

Sen. Sherrod Brown, D-Ohio, who is weighing a presidential campaign, has proposed giving people between the ages of 50 and 64 the option of buying into Medicare. His "Medicare at 50" bill was co-authored by Sens. Debbie Stabenow, D-Mich., and Tammy Baldwin, D-Wis.

While that's not "Medicare-for-all," it would provide a backstop for a demographic group whose members can suddenly find themselves uninsured due to layoffs, plant closings, or involuntary retirement.

Presidential hopefuls Booker, Gillibrand, Harris, are co-sponsors. So is Merkley. And the list includes Sen. Amy Klobuchar, D-Minn., who's running for the Democratic nomination and is not a co-sponsor of the Sanders bill.

MEDICARE PUBLIC OPTION

Legislation from Merkley would allow people of any age to buy into a new public plan modeled on Medicare. Employers would have the option of offering it to workers. Financial assistance with premiums would be available through the Affordable Care Act.

The "Choose Medicare" bill echoes an earlier "public option" proposal for government-run insurance to compete with private coverage, which Democrats ultimately backed away from during the Obama years after strong industry opposition.

The plan would also improve benefits under traditional Medicare, setting a limit on seniors' cost-sharing. And it would authorize Medicare to negotiate drug prices.

Sens. Booker, Gillibrand and Harris are co-sponsors. □

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Trump vows veto as Dems try to block emergency order

Continued from Front

Any Trump veto would likely be sustained, but the upcoming battle will test Republican support for the president's move, which even some of his allies view as a stretch — and a slap at lawmakers' control over the power of the federal purse.

Pelosi, D-Calif., said she'd honor her oath of office and uphold the Constitution, adding, "I wish he would have the same dedication to that oath of office himself." Speaking to reporters in Laredo, Texas, she said, "This is a path I would not recommend he go down. I don't expect him to sign it, but I do expect us to send it" to him.

House GOP leaders will urge rank-and-file Republicans on Monday to oppose the measure, Republican aides said. If all Democrats and at least 55 Republicans vote for it, it would pass by a veto-proof margin — a two-thirds majority. The aides spoke on condition of anonymity to describe leaders' plans.

"What the president is attempting is an unconstitutional power grab," said Rep. Joaquin Castro, D-Texas, the sponsor of the resolution, on a call with reporters. "There is no emergency at the border."

Trump's declaration of a national emergency gives him access to about \$3.6 billion in funding for military construction projects to divert to border fencing. But the administration is more likely to tap funding from a

federal asset forfeiture fund and Defense Department anti-drug efforts first.

Trump's edict is also being challenged in the federal courts, where a host of Democratic-led states such as California are among those that have sued to overturn Trump's order. The House may also join in.

For Democrats, the vote is another chance to challenge Trump over funding for a border wall, the issue that was central to the 35-day government shutdown. It also puts some Republicans from swing districts and states in a difficult spot, as many have expressed misgivings about Trump's action despite their support for his border security agenda.

Should the House and the Senate initially approve the measure, Congress seems unlikely to muster the two-thirds majorities in each chamber that would be needed later to override a Trump veto.

Republicans who oppose the emergency declaration on the first vote might switch and rally behind a Trump veto. But an initial roll call with strong numbers of Republicans defying him would be an embarrassing show of GOP rifts.

The measure to block Trump's edict will be closely watched in the Senate, where moderates such as Susan Collins, R-Maine, and Lamar Alexander, R-Tenn., have signaled they would back it. Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, R-Ky., is only a reluctant supporter of Trump on the

topic. Trump's GOP allies promised they would uphold any veto denying Democrats the two-thirds votes required to overcome one.

"Democrats' angst over Congress' power of the purse is unwarranted, especially since the commander in chief's authority to redirect military funds for a national emergency is affirmed in a law passed by their own branch," said top House Judiciary Committee Republican Doug Collins of Georgia. □



The U.S. Capitol Building in Washington, Friday, Feb. 22, 2019.

Associated Press

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Trump sets up abortion obstacles, barring clinic referrals

By **RICARDO ALONSO-ZALDIVAR** and **DAVID CRARY**

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Trump administration on Friday set up new obstacles for women seeking abortions, barring taxpayer-funded family planning clinics from making abortion referrals. The new policy is certain to be challenged in court.

The final rule released Friday by the Health and Human Services Department also would prohibit federally funded family planning clinics from being housed in the same locations as abortion providers, and require stricter financial separation. Clinic staff would still be permitted to discuss abortion with clients.

The move was decried by women's groups and praised by religious conservatives, but it could be some time before women served by the federal family program feel the full impact.

Women's groups, organizations representing the clinics, and Democratic-led states are expected to sue to block the policy from going into effect. Administration officials told abortion opponents on a call Friday that they expect legal action, according to a participant.

Abortion is a legal medical procedure, but federal laws prohibit the use of



In this May 22, 2018 file photo, President Donald Trump looks out at the audience during a speech at the Susan B. Anthony List 11th Annual Campaign for Life Gala at the National Building Museum in Washington.

taxpayer funds to pay for abortions except in cases of rape, incest, or to save the life of the woman.

Planned Parenthood, whose affiliates are major providers of family planning services as well as abortions, said the administration is trying to impose a "gag rule," and launched a full campaign to block it. "I want our patients to know this — we will fight through every avenue so this illegal, unethical rule never goes into effect," said Planned Parenthood's president, Dr. Leana Wen.

She said the new policy would prevent doctors

from referring women for abortions "even if your life depended on it."

House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif., declared: "Republicans must end their relentless assault on women's health care and rights." It's a gag rule "for all intents and purposes," said the American Medical Association.

"The patient-physician relationship relies on trust, open conversation and informed decision making and the government should not be telling physicians what they can and cannot say to their patients," the AMA said in a statement.

Planned Parenthood and other groups representing the clinics say the new requirements for physical separation of facilities would be costly and all but impossible to fulfill. Planned Parenthood said the administration is making another attempt to drive it out of business, after efforts to deny funding failed in Congress.

White House counselor Kellyanne Conway scoffed at that argument. "They've been saying for years they don't co-mingle their funds, so this should be easy for them," she told reporters at the White House. "Physical-

ly separate and financially separate."

Religious conservatives see the administration's action as a way to break down what they call an indirect taxpayer subsidy of abortion providers.

Tony Perkins, president of the Family Research Council, called it "a major step toward the ultimate goal of ending taxpayers' forced partnership with the abortion industry."

The regulation was published Friday on an HHS website. It's not official until it appears in the Federal Register and the department said there could be "minor editorial changes." A department official confirmed it was the final version.

Known as Title X, the family-planning program serves about 4 million women annually through independent clinics, many operated by Planned Parenthood affiliates, which serve about 40 percent of all clients. The grant program costs taxpayers about \$260 million a year.

Leaders of health associations representing black and Latino health care providers and patients joined Wen at a news briefing to decry the new rule. They said women from their communities make up more than half the beneficiaries of Title X grants and would be disproportionately harmed by the changes.

AP source: Mueller report not expected next week



In this June 21, 2017, file photo, special counsel Robert Mueller departs after a meeting on Capitol Hill in Washington. Robert Mueller's Russia probe has to end with a report.

Associated Press

By **MICHAEL BALSAMO** and **ERIC TUCKER**

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Special counsel Robert Mueller's report on the Russia investigation is not expected to be delivered to the Justice Department next week, a senior department official told The Associated Press on Friday. The official could not discuss the matter publicly and spoke to the AP on condition of anonymity. It was not immediately clear when the report might

come, though Mueller is showing signs of concluding his probe into Russian interference in the 2016 election and ties to the Trump campaign.

President Donald Trump will be in Asia next week seeking a nuclear deal with North Korean leader Kim Jong Un.

Since the special counsel's appointment in May 2017, Trump has repeatedly tried to undermine Mueller's work, casting the probe as a "witch hunt" and proclaiming there

was "NO COLLUSION" with Russia.

Under Justice Department guidelines, Mueller will produce a confidential report to Attorney General William Barr that explains his decisions to pursue or decline prosecutions.

Barr will then prepare his own report that would be released to Congress. He has said he intends to share some information with the public, though it's unclear whether Mueller's actual report will ever be made public.



In this June 16, 2018, file photo, American Airlines aircrafts are seen at O'Hare International Airport in Chicago.
Associated Press

Smile: Some airliners have cameras on seat-back screens

By DAVID KOENIG
AP Airlines Writer

Now there is one more place where cameras could start watching you — from 30,000 feet.

Newer seat-back entertainment systems on some airplanes operated by American Airlines and Singapore Airlines have cameras, and it's likely they are also on planes used by other carriers.

American and Singapore both said Friday that they have never activated the cameras and have no plans to use them.

However, companies that make the entertainment systems are installing cameras to offer future options such as seat-to-seat video conferencing, according to an American Airlines spokesman.

A passenger on a Singapore flight posted a photo of the seat-back display last week, and the tweet was shared several hundred times and drew media notice. BuzzFeed first reported that the cameras are also on some American planes.

The airlines stressed that they didn't add the cameras — manufacturers embedded them in the entertainment systems. American's systems are made by Panasonic, while Singapore uses Panasonic and Thales, according to airline representatives. Neither Panasonic nor Thales responded immediately for comment.

As they shrink, cameras are being built into more devices, including laptops and smartphones. The presence of cameras in aircraft entertainment systems was known in aviation circles at least two years ago, although not among the traveling public.

Seth Miller, a journalist who wrote about the issue in 2017, thinks that equipment makers didn't consider the privacy implications. There were already cameras on planes — although not so intrusive — and the companies assumed that passengers would trade their images for convenience, as they do with facial-recognition technology at immigration checkpoints, he said. "Now they're facing blowback from a small but vocal group questioning the value of the system that isn't even active," Miller said.

"Cameras are a standard feature on many in-flight entertainment systems used by multiple airlines," he said. Singapore spokesman James Boyd said cameras are on 84 Airbus A350s, Airbus A380s and Boeing 777s and 787s. The carrier has 117 planes.

While the airlines say they have no plans to use the cameras, a Twitter user named Vitaly Kamluk, who snapped the photo of the camera on his Singapore flight, suggested that just to be sure the carriers should slap stickers over the lenses. □



In this Oct. 30, 2018, file photo, crews dismantle the Verruckt waterslide at the Schlitterbahn water park in Kansas City, Kan.
Associated Press

Judge dismisses charges over boy's death on water slide

KANSAS CITY, Kan. (AP) —

A judge dismissed criminal charges Friday against a Kansas water park owner and the designer of a 17-story slide on which a 10-year-old boy was decapitated in 2016.

Wyandotte County Judge Robert Burns cited improper evidence in dropping second-degree murder charges against Schlitterbahn owner Jeff Henry, designer John Schooley, and general contractor Henry and Sons Construction Co. The judge also dismissed an involuntary manslaughter charge against operations manager Tyler Miles, The Kansas City Star reported. They were charged after Caleb Schwab died while riding the waterslide, which was marketed as the world's tallest slide.

"The court has grave doubts as to whether the irregularities and improprieties improperly influenced the grand jury and ultimately bolstered its decision to indict these defendants," Judge Robert Burns said. "Quite simply, these defendants were not afforded the due process protections and fundamental fairness Kansas law requires."

A spokesman for the Kansas Attorney General's Office, which prosecuted the case, didn't immediately

return phone and email messages from The Associated Press.

Caleb was killed on the Verruckt — German for "crazy" — in 2016 when the raft he was riding went airborne and hit a metal pole. Two women who were with him in the raft were seriously injured. The slide never operated again and has been torn down. While making his ruling, Burns noted the tragedy of Caleb's death.

"I obviously recognize that the circumstances and events giving rise to these indictments are indisputably tragic," Burns said. "A young child's life was lost and his troubling death was mourned by family, friends and the entire Kansas City community and beyond." Schlitterbahn spokeswoman Winter Prosapio said in a statement, "We welcome today's decision which dismissed the charges against all defendants. We are thankful for all the support and encouragement we've received."

The evidence included video from a Travel Channel show documenting construction of the Verruckt, in which Henry and others emphasized the risks to riders on a raft dropping 17 stories before climbing a second, 50-foot (15.24-meter) hump. Defense attorneys argued the show was

scripted for entertainment, showing flying boats. Defense attorneys argued the video didn't show how the ride actually worked, but the attorney general's office never told the jury it was a dramatization, though it showed boats flying up in a similar manner to how Caleb died.

The state argued that it was up to the jury to determine what was true and said the Travel Channel video should be presented at trial. Defendants also claimed jurors repeatedly were told that the waterslide was not built to standards established by ASTM International, which might have led jurors to conclude the water park was breaking the law. But Kansas law didn't require the Verruckt meet those standards at the time of Caleb's death. The legislature toughened state law involving inspections and requirements after the boy died.

Lawyers also argued the grand jury shouldn't have heard testimony about another death at a Schlitterbahn park in Texas because it's not relevant to what happened here.

Caleb and his father, Scott Schwab, were at the park for a special day for state lawmakers. Schwab was elected Kansas secretary of state in November. □

Colorado 'red flag' gun bill passes first hearing

By **JAMES ANDERSON**
 Associated Press

DENVER (AP) — Colorado Democrats launched another campaign Thursday to pass a "red flag" gun law — an effort backed by many top law enforcement officials to allow weapons to be seized from people who are determined by a court to pose significant risk.

Florida passed its own "red flag" law after the February 2017 Parkland school massacre, and 12 other states have done so. Colorado Republicans defeated a similar bill last year, insisting it infringed on citizens' Second Amendment rights. But Democrats won both state-house chambers in November, and Democratic Gov. Jared Polis called for a "red flag" law while campaigning last year.

The House Judiciary Committee voted 7-4 along party lines late Thursday to send this year's bill to the chamber's appropriations committee. The vote came after more than eight hours of testimony for and against the bill.

The legislation would allow family or law enforcement to seek a court order to have guns seized if they believe the owner is a threat. If approved, a subsequent court hearing would be held to determine whether to extend the seizure, up to



Colorado Rep. Tom Sullivan, D-Aurora, who lost his son in the 2012 mass shooting at a movie theatre in Aurora, Colo., waits to speak during a hearing before the House Judiciary Committee on a bill to get a "red flag" gun law on the books in Colorado Thursday, Feb. 21, 2019, in Denver.

Associated Press

364 days.

The bill also would leave it up to the person whose guns were seized to prove at any point that he or she no longer poses a risk. That person would be entitled to legal counsel.

"This is the first step to move forward on a solution that is geared at trying to help people in crisis and confront the epidemic of gun violence that's had a significant impact on the state of Colorado," said House Majority Leader Alec Garnett, a co-sponsor along with first-term Rep. Tom Sul-

livan.

Sullivan's son, Alex, was killed while celebrating his 27th birthday in the 2012 Aurora movie theater shooting.

"Watching your child's body drop into the ground is as bad as it gets," Sullivan told a news conference last week. "And I'm going to do everything I can to make sure that none of you have to do that."

A number of law enforcement officials supported the effort, including Tony Spurlock, sheriff of suburban Douglas County, who

lost a deputy in a New Year's Eve 2017 shooting by a suspect who was exhibiting increasingly erratic behavior. The bill is named after the deputy, Zachari Parrish.

Boulder County Sheriff Joe Pelle also supported the bill. His son was wounded in the shooting that killed Parrish.

"This is an issue that comes up constantly. We know who these folks are," Pelle testified. "We absolutely know when and how the time is right to use the courts to help us relieve

the situation and make our communities — and our officers — safer."

John Walsh, a former U.S. attorney for Colorado, insisted the legislation protects the rights of gun owners to due process and that courts in other states have upheld similar laws.

House Minority Leader Patrick Neville, a survivor of the 1999 Columbine High School massacre, says the bill would discourage citizens from seeking help because of the "stigma" associated with mental illness. "No one should feel they have to choose between their guns and getting the help they need," Neville said in a statement.

"I'm saddened that our beautiful state is moving away from due process," said John Anderson, a retired commander of the Castle Rock Police Department and 20-year veteran of SWAT teams. The bill, he said, presumes that "the accused is guilty until proven innocent" and will create dangerous situations when officers try to confiscate firearms.

"You have now singled out one class of citizens in Colorado, and that is gun owners. And you will be challenged in court," said Dudley Brown, executive director of the advocacy group Rocky Mountain Gun Owners. □

New controls in Maine to prevent poaching of valuable eels

By **PATRICK WHITTLE**
 Associated Press

PORTLAND, Maine (AP) — Maine's lucrative baby eel industry will likely face tighter controls this year designed to thwart poaching, as officials consider requiring state law enforcement officers to oversee the packing and shipping of the wriggling critters.

Baby eels, called elvers, are an important part of the worldwide supply chain for Japanese food. Maine fishermen harvest them from rivers and streams every spring, and they are typically worth more than \$1,000 per pound (half-



In this May 25, 2017 file photo, elver fishermen set up a net on the Penobscot River in Brewer, Maine.

Associated Press

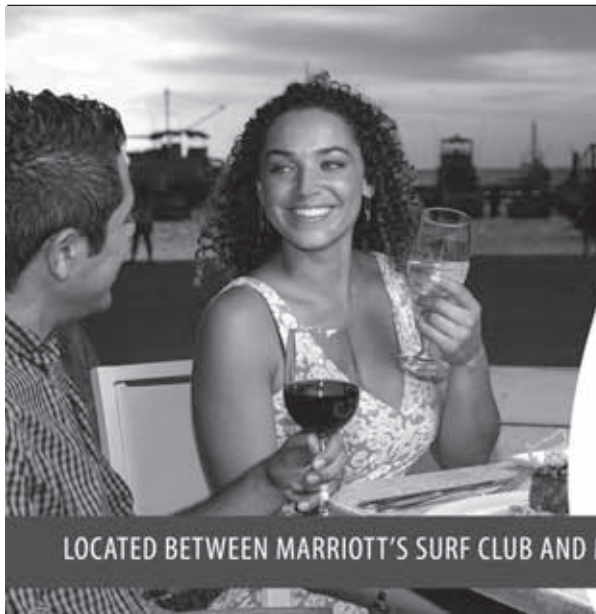
kilogram). No other U.S. state has a significant elver fishery. But poaching

two weeks early after investigators unearthed concerns about illegal sales.

This year, the Maine Department of Marine Resources is looking to add a requirement that elver exporters in the state must notify the Maine Marine Patrol 48 hours before preparing to pack and ship the eels. The officer will witness the weighing and packing of the elvers and then mark the package with a seal that must remain intact and untampered with until the eels reach their destination.

"That is a way to secure the shipment and ensure that

the package is not tampered with and elvers illegally harvested will not end up in those shipments," said Jeff Nichols, a spokesman for the marine resources department. The state's elver fishery is already tracked using a swipe-card system, and that system will stay in place, Nichols said. The swipe card system is designed to record the weight and value of every sale so the state can make sure no one exceeds quota. The fishery also has a tight quota of 9,688 pounds (4,394 kilograms) for all of the fishermen who participate. □



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California parents of 13 plead guilty to torture, abuse

By AMY TAXIN
Associated Press

RIVERSIDE, Calif. (AP) — A California couple pleaded guilty Friday to torture and years of abuse that included shackling some of their 13 children to beds and starving them to the point they stopped growing. David and Louise Turpin will spend at least 25 years in prison after entering the pleas in Riverside County Superior Court to 14 counts that included cruelty toward all but their toddler daughter, and imprisoning the children in a house that appeared neatly kept outside, but festered with filth and reeked of human waste.

The couple was arrested in January 2018 after their 17-year-old daughter escaped from the home and called 911 in the city of Perris, about 60 miles (96 kilometers) southeast of Los Angeles. The children, ages 2 to 29 at the time, were severely underweight and hadn't bathed for months. They described being beaten, starved and put in cages. Louise Turpin's face turned red and she began crying and dabbed her eyes with a tissue during the hearing while her husband appeared stoic.

The two will be sentenced to up to life in prison April 19, Riverside District Attorney Mike Hestrin said.

"The defendants ruined lives so I think it's just and fair that the sentence be equivalent to first-degree murder," Hestrin said.

The Turpins had led a mostly solitary, but seemingly unre-



David Turpin, second from right, and wife, Louise, far left, listen to their charges as they are joined by their attorneys, Allison Lowe, second from left, and David Macher in a courtroom Friday, Feb. 22, 2019, in Riverside, Calif.

markable life until the teenager jumped from a window and called for help. David Turpin, 57, had worked as an engineer for both Lockheed Martin and Northrop Grumman. Louise Turpin, 50, was listed as a housewife in a 2011 bankruptcy filing.

The family led a nocturnal existence, which kept them largely out of sight from neighbors in a middle-class subdivision.

In a recording of the 911 call, the girl who escaped said two younger sisters and a brother were chained to beds and she couldn't take it.

"They will wake up at night and they will start crying and they wanted me to call somebody," she said in a high-pitched voice. "I

wanted to call y'all so y'all can help my sisters."

Police who responded discovered a house of horrors. Two girls had been hastily released from their chains but a 22-year-old son remained shackled. The brother told police he and his siblings had been suspected of stealing food and being disrespectful.

The intervention marked a new start for the children who lived in such isolation that the teen who called for help didn't know her address.

Although the parents filed reports with the state that they home-schooled their children, the oldest child only completed the third grade. Some children suffered from severe malnutrition, stunted growth and

muscle wasting, including an 11-year-old girl who had arms the size of an infant.

Children were deprived of food and things other kids take for granted, such as toys and games, and allowed to do little except write in journals, authorities said.

The kids were rarely allowed outside but went out on Halloween and traveled as a family to Disneyland and Las Vegas. They spent most of their time locked in their rooms except for limited meals or using the bathroom.

All the children were hospitalized immediately after they were discovered and have not spoken publicly. Riverside County authorities then obtained temporary conservatorship over

the adults.

The social services agency tasked with overseeing the younger children declined to comment on their cases. The adult children are all living together, attending school and getting healthy while leading lives similar to their peers, said Jack Osborn, an attorney who represents the seven adult children. He said they value their privacy.

"They are relieved they can now move forward with their lives and not have the specter of a trial hanging over their heads and all the stress that would have caused," Osborn said.

The guilty pleas could help with the challenges the children face, especially since many abuse survivors struggle with feelings of self-doubt, said Jessica Borelli, a clinical psychologist and professor at University of California, Irvine.

"It is a pretty clear affirmation of how they were mistreated," Borelli said. "If there is any part of them that needs validation that how they were treated was wrong and was abuse, this is it." The guilty pleas were important to spare the children from testifying, though they will be allowed to speak at the sentencing if they choose, said Hestrin, who was impressed with their resiliency.

"I was very taken by their optimism, by their hope for the future," Hestrin said. "They have a zest for life and huge smiles and I am optimistic for them and I think that's how they feel about their future." □

Vatican sex abuse summit seeks new culture of accountability

By **NICOLE WINFIELD**

Associated Press

VATICAN CITY (AP) — Cardinals attending Pope Francis' summit on preventing clergy sex abuse called Friday for a new culture of accountability in the Catholic Church to punish bishops and religious superiors when they fail to protect their flocks from predator priests.

On the second day of Francis' extraordinary gathering of Catholic leaders, the debate shifted to how church leaders must acknowledge that decades of their own cover-ups, secrecy and fear of scandal had only worsened the sex abuse crisis. "We must repent, and do so together, collegially, because along the way we have failed," said Mumbai Cardinal Oswald Gracias. "We need to seek pardon." Chicago Cardinal Blase Cupich told the 190 bishops and religious superiors that new legal procedures were needed to both report and investigate Catholic superiors when they are accused of misconduct themselves or of negligence in handling other abuse cases. He said lay experts must be involved at every step of the process, since rank-and-file Catholics often know far better than priests what trauma the clergy sex abuse and its cover-up has caused.

"It is the witness of the laity, especially mothers and fathers with great love for the church, who have pointed out movingly and forcefully how gravely incompatible the commission,



Bishops attend the second day of a Vatican's conference on dealing with sex abuse by priests, at the Vatican, Friday, Feb. 22, 2019.

cover-up and toleration of clergy sexual abuse is with the very meaning and essence of the church," Cupich said. "Mothers and fathers have called us to account, for they simply cannot comprehend how we as bishops and religious superiors have often been blinded to the scope and damage of sexual abuse of minors," he said.

Francis summoned the bishops for the four-day tutorial on preventing sex abuse and protecting children after the scandal erupted again last year in Chile and the U.S. While the Vatican for two decades has tried to crack down on the abusers themselves, it has largely given a pass to the bishops and superiors who moved the predators around from parish to parish.

Cupich called for transparent new structures to report allegations against superiors, investigate them and establish clear procedures to remove them from office if they are guilty of grave negligence in handling abuse cases.

He proposed that metropolitan bishops — who are responsible for other bishops in their area — should conduct the investigations into suspected abuse with the help of lay experts, then forward the results to the Vatican.

Cupich acknowledged his proposal differed from that prepared by the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops at large last year. Those procedures, which called for a code of conduct for bishops and a third-party confidential reporting sys-

tem, ran into legal snags at the Vatican, which blocked U.S. bishops from voting on them in November.

At the time of the blocked vote, Cupich proposed his "metropolitan model," which he articulated further Friday from the privileged position as an organizer of Francis' summit.

Cupich told reporters that his proposal differed from the U.S. conference in that it was "anchored" in existing U.S. church structures for accountability and would therefore be obligatory for all bishops. The U.S. conference proposal would have been voluntary.

In addition, he said involving the regional metropolitan in the procedure would allow for pastoral follow-up to care for the victims.

More than 30 years after

the scandal first erupted in Ireland and Australia, and 20 years after it hit the U.S., bishops and Catholic officials in many parts of Europe, Latin America, Africa and Asia still either deny that clergy sex abuse exists in their regions or play down the problem.

Francis, the first Latin American pope, called the summit after he himself botched a well-known sex abuse cover-up case in Chile last year.

Gracias, the Indian cardinal, opened the session by saying bishops must work together to address the problem because it was erroneous to say "it's a just a problem for the USA or Europe or Australia."

But Gracias' prime-time speaking slot drew some criticism, since the Indian church isn't known for being proactive in combating clergy sex abuse. Gracias himself has been publicly criticized for his record.

"Why was Gracias allowed to speak at the papal summit? He is a poster boy for the lack of accountability of church leaders, especially in developing countries," said Anne Barrett Doyle of the online group BishopAccountability, which tracks the abuse scandal.

But it appeared the Vatican may have chosen as speakers precisely those cardinals whose own national churches have not confronted the scandal openly. On the summit's opening day, for example, the keynote speaker was Filipino Cardinal Luis Tagle. □

Protests in Algeria against president's bid for 5th term

By **AOMAR OUALI**

Associated Press

ALGIERS, Algeria (AP) — Thousands of Algerians have taken to the streets in several towns to denounce ailing President Abdelaziz Bouteflika's bid for a fifth term.

Security was tight Friday in the capital, Algiers, where thousands of protesters headed to Martyrs

Square in the city center. The crowd of mostly young people shouted slogans like "No fifth term!" and "No to corruption!"

Demonstrations are rare in Algiers, where police usually prevent protesters from gathering.

The 81-year-old Bouteflika announced this month that he plans to seek a new term in the April 18 presi-

dential election despite serious questions over his fitness for office after a 2013 stroke left him largely infirm. He has been seen in public only a few times a year during his entire fourth term.

Yet many Algerians likely would vote for Bouteflika again, fearing that his departure could lead to government instability.

Other demonstrations took

place Friday in Oran, the country's second-most important city, and the northern towns of Annaba and Akbou. In Annaba, 500 kilometers (310 miles) east of Algiers, hundreds of people marched on the main street with posters of Bouteflika that had a cross over them.

Protesters used tires and other materials to block

some streets in Akbou, in the Kabylie region, which is historically hostile to Algiers' central power.

Another demonstration is planned for Sunday in Algiers by Mouwatana, a group gathering opposition parties and activists. Organizers want Bouteflika to "renounce" his decision to seek a new term, notably because of his health. □

UN nuclear watchdog: Iran stays within limits of 2015 deal

By KIYOKO METZLER

Associated Press

VIENNA (AP) — Iran is continuing to comply with the landmark 2015 deal with major powers aimed at preventing Tehran from building atomic weapons in exchange for economic incentives despite the United States withdrawing from the pact and re-imposing sanctions, the U.N. nuclear watchdog said Friday.

In a confidential quarterly report distributed to its member states and reviewed by The Associated Press, the International Atomic Energy Agency said Iran has been abiding with key limitations set in the so-called Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action, or JCPOA.

The U.S. pulled out of the deal in May and has been pressuring remaining signatories to abandon it as well. Every IAEA quarterly report issued since Washington withdrew from the pact reported Iran remained in compliance. A senior diplomat said no noticeable changes in Tehran's level of cooperation have been seen since the reinstatement of U.S. sanctions.

"It is continuing at the same



In this Sunday, Feb. 18, 2018 file photo, Iran's foreign minister Mohammad Javad Zarif, speaks at the Security Conference in Munich, Germany.

level as before," said the diplomat, who spoke on condition of anonymity because he wasn't officially authorized to discuss the report.

In its latest report, the Vienna-based agency said its inspectors still have access to all sites and locations in Iran they need to visit.

"Timely and proactive cooperation by Iran in providing such access facilitates implementation of the Ad-

ditional Protocol and enhances confidence," the report stated, referring to the procedure detailing safeguards and tools for verification. The same language appeared in past quarterly reports. The U.N. agency noted that Iran's stocks of heavy water and low-enriched uranium still were under the limits set in the 2015 pact.

The other nations involved in the JCPOA — Germany,

Britain, France, Russia and China — along with the European Union have so far shown no inclination to abandon the agreement. They instead have tried to provide Iran with enough economic incentives to keep it alive.

Last month, Britain, France and Germany established a barter-type system known as INSTEX that is designed to allow their businesses to skirt direct finan-

cial transactions with Iran and thereby evade possible U.S. sanctions. Plans call for the payment system to be run from Germany as a financial institution.

The plan has angered Washington, despite reassurances from the Europeans that their initiative would concentrate on products not currently subject to U.S. sanctions, such as medicine, medical supplies and agricultural goods, rather than on broader trade.

Still, at the Munich Security Conference last weekend, U.S. Vice President Mike Pence slammed INSTEX as "undermining" the U.S. sanctions and called on the Europeans to abandon the Iran nuclear deal altogether. Illustrating the difficulties facing the nations trying to sustain the nuclear deal as they balance American concerns and demands from Tehran, Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif told the Munich conference INSTEX does not go far enough.

"Europe needs to be willing to get wet if it wants to swim against a dangerous tide of U.S. unilateralism," Zarif said. □

Australian who drove into crowd, killed 6, sentenced to life

Associated Press

MELBOURNE, Australia

(AP) — A man who drove a stolen car into lunchtime crowds in downtown Melbourne and killed six people was sentenced to life imprisonment Friday in what the judge described as "one of the worst examples of mass murder in Australian history."

James Gargasoulas, 29, showed little emotion when sentenced in Victoria state's Supreme Court. Under the terms of his sentence, he will spend at least 46 years in prison before he's eligible for parole. Families of the victims filled the courtroom for Justice Mark Weinberg's ruling. Gargasoulas was in a drug-induced psychosis in January 2017 when he killed the six people and injured doz-



James Gargasoulas, center, leaves the Victorian Supreme Court after sentencing, in Melbourne, Australia Friday, Feb. 22, 2019.

Associated Press

ens more in the busy Bourke St. Mall. His victims included a 3-month-old baby who was thrown 60 meters (200 feet) from his stroller and a 10-year-old girl.

"Your actions were both callous and cowardly," the judge said. The judge described in detail the events of the "terrifying rampage," noting each victim killed as

well as those left with broken bones, head injuries, internal bleeding and other lasting damage.

Crime Stoppers Victoria ambassador George Halvagas said he thinks Gargasoulas should die in jail.

"He should never, ever, get out of there," he told reporters after the sentencing. Grieving relatives earlier told the court of their pain. The brother of Japanese victim Yosuke Kanno, 25, said he will continue suffering until he dies.

In a letter read to the court, Gargasoulas insisted he was not evil and blamed "government oppression" for the murders.

He also said he was the Messiah and was acting on the wishes of God on the day of the rampage, but was in a "bad headspace."

Gargasoulas has treatment-resistant paranoid schizophrenia but was found fit to stand trial.

He pleaded not guilty. In November, a jury found him guilty of the six murders and 27 counts of reckless conduct endangering life. He had been using drugs and committing crimes in the weeks before the attack and was on bail.

The judge noted he was meant to face court on the day of the massacre. Police had tailed the stolen Holden Commodore for some of its journey into downtown Melbourne before the rampage.

"Your crimes have had a shattering effect on countless lives," Weinberg said. Gargasoulas will be eligible to apply for release in 2063, when he's 73. □

From Syria, IS slips into Iraq to fight another day

By **QASSIM ABDUL-ZAHRA**
PHILIP ISSA

Associated Press

BAGHDAD (AP) — Islamic State fighters facing defeat in Syria are slipping across the border into Iraq, where they are destabilizing the country's fragile security, U.S. and Iraqi officials say. Hundreds — likely more than 1,000 — IS fighters have crossed the open, desert border in the past six months, defying a massive operation by U.S., Kurdish, and allied forces to stamp out the remnants of the jihadi group in eastern Syria, according to three Iraqi intelligence officials and a U.S. military official.

The officials spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to comment publicly on intelligence matters. But indications of the extremist group's widening reach in Iraq are clear.

Cells operating in four northern provinces are carrying out kidnappings, assassinations, and roadside ambushes aimed at intimidating locals and restoring the extortion rackets that financed the group's rise to power six years ago.

"IS is trying to assert itself in Iraq, because of the pres-



In this Tuesday, Feb. 19, 2019 file photo, U.S.-backed Syrian Democratic Forces fighters watch as an airstrike hits territory still held by Islamic State militants in the desert outside Baghouz, Syria. U.S. Associated Press

sure it is under in Syria," said Brig. Gen. Yahya Rasoul, the Iraqi army spokesman. The militants can count between 5,000 and 7,000 among their ranks in Iraq, where they are hiding out in the rugged terrain of remote areas, according to one intelligence official.

In Syria, Kurdish-led forces backed by the U.S.-led coalition have cornered the militants in a pocket less than one square kilometer in Baghouz, a Euphrates

River village near the 600-kilometer (370-mile) border. The Iraqi army has deployed more than 20,000 troops to guard the frontier, but militants are slipping across, mostly to the north of the conflict zone, in tunnels or under the cover of night. Others are entering Iraq disguised as cattle herders.

They are bringing with them currency and light weapons, according to intelligence reports, and digging

up money and arms from caches they stashed away when they controlled a vast swath of northern Iraq. "If we deployed the greatest militaries in the world, they would not be able to control this territory," Rasoul said. "Our operations require intelligence gathering and airstrikes."

At its height in 2014 and 2015, the Islamic State group ruled over a self-proclaimed "caliphate" that spanned one-third of Iraqi

and Syrian territory. The extremist offshoot of Al-Qaida in Iraq threatened to exterminate religious minorities. Iraqi forces, with U.S., Iranian, and other international help, were able to turn the war around and Baghdad declared victory over the group in December 2017, after the last urban battle had been won.

But precursors to IS have recovered from major setbacks in the past, and many fear the militants could stage a comeback. The group is already waging a low-level insurgency in rural areas.

The Associated Press verified nine IS attacks in Iraq in January alone, based on information gathered from intelligence officials, provincial leaders, and social media. IS often boasts of its activities through group messaging apps such as Telegram.

In one instance, a band of militants broke into the home of a man they accused of being an informant for the army, in the village of Tal al-Asfour in the northern Badush region. They shot him and his two brothers against the wall, and posted photos of the killing on social media. □

Sudan declares state of emergency, disbands Cabinet

Associated Press

CAIRO (AP) — Sudan's President Omar al-Bashir on Friday declared a state of emergency for a year and disbanded the government amid deadly protests. Al-Bashir — who seized power in a 1989 coup — also said that he will postpone pushing for constitutional amendments to allow him to seek a third term in office.

Facing genocide charges, al-Bashir's rule has been rocked by civil wars and increasing street demonstrations. A heavy security crackdown has left scores of protesters dead. At least 57 people have been killed since December.

"Our country is passing through a difficult and complicated phase in our



In this July 9, 2018, file photo, Sudan's President Omar al-Bashir attends a ceremony for Turkey's President Recep Tayyip Erdogan, at the Presidential Palace in Ankara, Turkey.

Associated Press

national history," al-Bashir said in a speech aired live from the presidential palace in Khartoum. "We will

get out of it stronger and more united and determined."

The state of emergency will

give the security forces a free hand in cracking down on protesters and carrying out detentions, and places heavier restrictions on the press and opposition parties.

Sudan has been gripped by nationwide protests since Dec. 19. The demonstrations, which show no sign of abating, were triggered by rising prices and shortages but quickly turned to calls for al-Bashir to step down. Al-Bashir's term ends in 2020 and he has repeatedly promised over the years not to make new runs for the presidency. Without amending the constitution, he can't run for a third term.

His announcement came days after a parliamentary committee tasked with

amending the constitution to scrap presidential term limit canceled its meetings. The Sudanese Professional Association, which is spearheading the country's demonstrations, warned of any measures that could "turn against" the demands of the Sudanese people, and vowed that it will respond with more escalation in street protests. "The demands of this revolution are crystal clear," the statement said, "the regime and its head must step down."

However, al-Bashir warned the opposition of the "zero-sum" game that creates chaos, pointing to a wave of the Arab Spring uprisings that led to civil wars in countries like Libya and Yemen. □



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A look at Nigeria's top 2 presidential contenders

By SAM OLUKOYA
CARA ANNA

Associated Press

KANO, Nigeria (AP) — Africa's most populous country goes to the polls on Saturday to decide whether President Muhammadu Buhari deserves a second term. While more than 70 people are running to lead Nigeria, the close race comes down to Buhari and a billionaire former vice president, Atiku Abubakar. Here is a look at the top candidates, who both come from the country's largely Muslim north and have chosen Christian running mates from the other traditional power bases, the southeast and southwest.

PRESIDENT MUHAMMADU BUHARI

The 76-year-old former military dictator who ruled in the mid-1980s now says he regrets his ruthless past. Many Nigerians, remem-



In this photo released by the Nigeria State House, Nigeria's incumbent President Muhammadu Buhari, of the All Progressives Congress party, right, greets supporters as he departs from Daura, Nigeria, bound for Abuja, following the postponement of presidential elections, Saturday, Feb. 16, 2019.

Associated Press

bering his reputation for sometimes harsh discipline, cheered when he unseated incumbent President Goodluck Johnathan in 2015, hoping Buhari would follow up on his vows to tame widespread corruption and defeat a deadly Boko Haram extremist insurgency.

But his term has been difficult. Nigeria's heavily oil-dependent economy, the largest in Africa, fell into a rare recession when global crude prices crashed. The recession is over but growth remains slow, and while Buhari points to progress in agriculture and infrastructure, many people grumble that

both prices and unemployment are painfully high.

Meanwhile, while the military under Buhari has pushed Boko Haram from many communities in the northeast, a new faction pledging allegiance to the Islamic State group has made a deadly resurgence in recent months, displacing tens of thousands of people in one of the world's most dire humanitarian crises.

The president spent more than 150 days of his term outside the country for medical treatment, and questions about his health remain as he keeps public appearances brief. "I feel he is not fully OK. He should go and rest," said Anna Eguaoje, a businesswoman in Kano. "The other one is old too, but more energetic," said Caroline Inyanda, an airport worker in the same city.

ATIKU ABUBAKAR

The 72-year-old rose from a tax officer to become Nigeria's vice president between 1999 and 2007, a period in which he was targeted with corruption allegations that have never faded. After a childhood in which he defied his father to pursue an education, Abubakar discovered his entrepreneurial side and moved from the customs service into a life of business and politics. He points to his business empire, claiming some 50,000 employees, as evidence of the wealth he hopes to bring to fellow Nigerians. But one analyst noted that a privatization program mainly supervised by Atiku while vice president was a failure. "Most of the privatized assets are still relying on the Nigerian government for bailouts, especially the power sector," said Sylvester Odion-Akhaine, a political science lecturer at Lagos State University. □

China's new policy against gender bias meets fans, skeptics

By YANAN WANG
SHANSHAN WANG

Associated Press

BEIJING (AP) — China has announced new measures against gender discrimination in Chinese workplaces that forbid employers from asking potential female hires questions such as if they are married or have children.

At some companies in China, the answers to these questions can be disqualifying. Other firms are explicit in their job postings that they are looking only for men.

Many welcomed the government notice, published Thursday, which forbids companies and recruitment agencies from tak-



In this Feb. 10, 2019, photo, a group of female job-seekers chat in front of a billboard displaying recruitment leaflets at a labor market in Qingdao in east China's Shandong province.

Associated Press

ing certain discriminatory actions against female employees and job candidates. But female workers and analysts alike were

skeptical that such measures could be strictly enforced.

"A notice is better than nothing," said Li Yinhe, a

prominent Chinese sociologist on sex and family issues. "Although (the notice) might not be that useful in practice, at least it states the issues in explicit terms," Li said. "Companies won't be as blatant as they were before." While gender discrimination in hiring is already banned by Chinese labor laws, the notice appears to target specific behaviors that have made news in recent years. Last April, Human Rights Watch published a report that revealed that Chinese job advertisements were rife with gender discrimination. Human Rights Watch found several postings that said "men only," "men preferred," or "suitable for

men." In other cases, the company preferred female applicants to be married with children.

Thursday's notice on "promoting women's employment" was published jointly by several ministries, including the Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Human Resources and Social Security. It said companies that post discriminatory job ads can be fined up to 50,000 yuan (\$7,440).

The notice also forbids companies from including pregnancy tests in medical examinations required for employment, and bans employers from placing restrictions on whether a woman can have children as a condition of hiring. □

Venezuela power struggle turns to music at aid concert

By **CHRISTINE ARMARIO**

LUIS ANDRES HENAO

Associated Press

CUCUTA, Colombia (AP)

— Thousands of Venezuelans, including some who slipped across the border, joined migrants in neighboring Colombia to attend a star-studded concert backing the opposition in Venezuela's power struggle and seeking to pressure President Nicolas Maduro into allowing the delivery of emergency food and medicine.

On the Venezuelan side, government workers assembled a smaller stage for a rival, three-day "Hands Off Venezuela" concert being organized by Maduro. Even as several million Venezuelans flee the country and those who remain struggle to find basic goods like food and antibiotics, the embattled president claims the relief effort led by opposition leader Juan Guaido is a U.S. orchestrated ploy to oust him from power.

An optimistic mood as the Live Aid-style concert opened in the Colombian border city of Cucuta couldn't mask underlying tensions a day before Maduro's opponents embark on a risky strategy to undermine Maduro and bring in the aid being amassed for days along three of Venezuela's borders.

Thousands of kilometers away, near a crossing with Brazil, a member of an indigenous tribe was killed and 12 more injured in clashes with security forces who enforced Maduro's orders to keep out the aid. Hours before the concert began, dozens of Venezuelans hiked across the border through high bushes on an unmarked trail. They carried ice boxes, snacks and water and whispered directions as they kept a close eye out for Venezuelan soldiers.

"This concert happens once in a lifetime," 19-year-old Shirley Duran said. "It will be a great opportunity for so many poor people who are suffering under



Concert goers unfurl their Venezuelan flags during the Venezuela Aid Live concert on the Colombian side of the Tienditas International Bridge near Cucuta, Colombia, on the border with Venezuela Friday, Feb. 22, 2019.

the heat, who are hungry, jobless. At last they'll have something to enjoy."

British billionaire Richard Branson organized the Live Aid-style concert, which features dozens of Latin musicians on a giant stage on one side of a bridge. Facing it on the other side of the bridge, sits a giant shipping container and tanker that Maduro's government has placed there to prevent the delivery of U.S.-supplied food and medical kits.

As Venezuela's political turmoil drags on, allies of Guaido, who the U.S. and dozens of other countries have recognized as Venezuela's rightful leader, are hoping the massive concert in Cucuta will set the stage for the smooth delivery Saturday of the aid and a turning point in their quest for a transitional government.

At the concert venue, the feeling was one of collective catharsis, especially for migrants who in recent years have fled Venezuela's economic implosion by crossing into Colombia. Under a scorching sun, those in attendance waved Venezuelan flags, squirted water at each other and swayed to music by marquee artists including Argentina's Diego Torres as well as a host of Venezu-

elan performers.

Reymar Perdomo, a Venezuelan street singer who rose to fame for a video went viral showing her singing on buses in Peru, kicked off the concert with her signature song, "Me Fui," Spanish for "I left," which has become the unofficial anthem of the mass exodus.

Perdomo said performing so close to the border brought back painful memories. "A little over a year ago I crossed this border and was robbed of my luggage and all my money," she said. "But I know in this moment that there will be change because Venezuelans want it and they are showing it today."

The plan to bring in aid is one of the most ambitious — and potentially dangerous — that the opposition has attempted to undertake since Guaido declared himself interim president in January.

But Maduro has shown no signs of backing down, and analysts warn that whatever happens over the next two days may not yield a conclusive victory for either side.

"I think one of the government's aims is to confuse the whole thing, possibly to create some kind of chaos that makes the opposition look bad," Phil Gunson, a

senior analyst with the International Crisis Group based in Caracas, said of Maduro's rival concert. "It's a propaganda war."

As if to highlighting those risks, a woman from the combative Pemon tribe identified as Zoraida Rodriguez died in clashes near the border with Brazil.

There was no immediate information on the condition of the injured, though television news showed images of three men on gurneys being treated for bloody wounds. Local officials said soldiers fired rubber bullets and tear gas.

Much like the original 1985 Live Aid concert, which raised funds to relieve the Ethiopian famine, Branson has set a goal to raise \$100 million for Venezuelans in need within 60 days. He said he got the idea after brainstorming with Guaido and his political mentor, Leopoldo Lopez, who is under house arrest for leading protests against Maduro in 2014.

"If we can take people to space why is it so hard to take people out of poverty?" Branson said, opening the concert before a cheering crowd. "We must break the impasse and end the humanitarian crisis."

Days after Branson launched his concert, Maduro's government an-

nounced that not only would they hold a rival festival but that they would also deliver over 20,000 boxes of food for poor Colombians in Cucuta on Friday and Saturday.

The sharp rhetoric from both sides has put many in this border city of 700,000 on edge.

Paola Quintero, an activist for Venezuelan migrants, said that while the concert has had a positive, short-term impact on Cucuta's economy, many are worried about what might happen Saturday when thousands try to move aid across the border.

"What awaits those who will be on the bridge, trying to get aid through?" she said. Venezuelans like Rosa Mora, 40, said they were still debating whether to heed the opposition's call for a mass mobilization at three bridges in the Cucuta area Saturday, fearful that they might be met with resistance by the military.

"I'm terrified of what's going to happen," she confided.

Still, when she thinks about her children and a sister with diabetes that has gone untreated for the last year, she leans toward participating.

"It won't be for me," she said. "But for our children." □

Associated Press

LOCAL



Feeling Sick during vacation?

At Your Service: Experienced Doctor & Pharmacy under one Roof



PALM BEACH — Feeling sick is a miserable thing during vacation. This is the time of the year you should enjoy and relax, so staying in a hotel room bed with a sunstroke, skin allergy, ear infection or intestinal problems can be a bummer. The best thing to do is to recover as soon as possible, and Dr. Lili Beke of the Aruba Walk-in Clinic, together with Palm Beach Service Pharmacy are a one-stop-shopping solution.

A Walk-In Clinic to Walk To

First of all she is calm, kind and understanding. Personal touch is her trade mark and with more than 35 years of experience as a medical doctor she knows what's going on. Doctor Beke is located in Palm Beach, at the door steps of the hotel area and her clinic is appropriately named the Aruba Walk-In Clinic. "I'd like to put myself in the shoes of the visitor. Being in a strange place, sometimes far from family or even alone and feeling sick. You can feel lost and disorientated. I can understand that and try to give them comprehension and a welcome feeling while examining them. So they leave with a smile, even if they feel a bit sick." The doctor speaks seven languages: English, Dutch, German, French, Italian, Spanish and Papiamentu, meaning she can attend to almost any tourist from all over the world. "You can come in without an appointment and we have an emergency number that works 24/7, if necessary I will visit the patient where he/she is staying. We attend patients every day!" Her philosophy is as follows: As long as you enjoy what you are doing and like to help people, this profession is very rewarding." It sounds like the perfect place to heal.

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Two quality parties that work together can only be a good thing. After you pick up your prescription at Dr. Beke's practice, you can go to the Pharmacy, right next door. The collaboration between these two results in a quick, efficient and quality service. It's just what you need when



you feel the only thing you want is healing. Lennert van der Poel, general manager of the Pharmacy, which is part of a Group of 5 pharmacies, points out that convenience is not their only unique asset. "We carry a wide variety of medicines from the US, but most of the medicines come from the EU. The prices in the EU are considerably lower than in the U.S." All medicine are European registered with the same standard as U.S. products. "The law in the States allows visitors to get medicines here for the use of six months and many repeated guests or time share owners do so. This saves them a lot of money. It is however mandatory to have a prescription from a local doctor", says van der Poel. Most common medicines requested by visitors are antibiotic, pain killers and anti-allergy medications.

Naturally we wish you the healthiest, most wonderful vacation of your life on our Happy Island. But In case you are in need of a doctor and a pharmacy, just turn around, walk in and feel welcome to be cured! □

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It's A Wrap



ORANJESTAD — Aruba Today has launched its very first video of the series 'Ask Pilar' at Facebook Aruba Today and on our website www.arubatoday.com about two months ago. Let us introduce to you this fresh new project and the people behind it.

Why a video? Besides our daily printed free newspaper, our posts on Facebook and Instagram and our website content we started evaluating the plans for short video's about a year ago. The concept was created by Editor-in-Chief Linda Reijnders to add variation to the product Aruba Today. "There is more to this island than palm trees and beaches and in our videos we wish to inform and educate the visitor by showing local places of any kind. We are all new to this, but goal is not to deliver a technical perfect result, moreover motivate with the content and topic as well as the good energy coming from it." Aruba Today will publish two or more videos per week and the concept will be interactive. Meaning that as the title of the video 'Ask Pilar' already reveals, the viewer has the tool to actually ask about the topics shown or maybe even suggest a location/topic for a video. Just ask our host Pilar through Facebook comments or messenger.

THE TEAM

Pilar Flores, 33 years old, is the jolly Video Host of 'Ask Pilar'. She loves doing the videos because she gets to meet a lot of nice people and to know many interesting places. "I hope with it that people will get to know and love Aruba the way us locals do." Flores is Executive Editor at Bon Dia Newspaper, Aruba Today's sister, where she is fond of being up to date on all current happenings and events and having the inside information. She has a Bachelor of The-



ology, achieved in Aberdeen, Scotland and a Masters of Applied Ethics in Utrecht, The Netherlands. "In my leisure time I like to walk in Arikok National park, play with my three cats, color and spend time with my boyfriend."

The one capturing the images with his camera and edit them into the end result is our Videographer Juan Luis Pinto Sotter, Marketing Major at the University of Aruba. "I chose marketing because I wanted a career that kept me physically and mentally active. As a junior marketer there is a lot of moving around, I can't begin to imagine what the real world will be like." His hobbies include photography, gaming, and working on his car. "I am not a car mechanic, however YouTube helps a lot and I find it very therapeutic to put everything aside and work on this piece of metal that helps me move long distances." Juan Luis loves to capture moments with his camera and edit them into a dynamic video.

Video Director of 'Ask Pilar' is Editor-in-Chief Linda Reijnders, working in this current position since July 2017 and before that for six years with the local newspaper in Dutch, Amigoe di Aruba as a journalist and Editor-in-Chief of the magazine H&H. "I love working in the media, I love to write, create, connect, inform and educate. Working with young, talented and motivated people like Juan Luis and Pilar is a blessing to me. We really enjoy making these Aruba Peeks and we for sure hope that rubs off to the viewer."

Check us out on Facebook Aruba Today or the website www.arubatoday.com and do not forget to like and share! Thank you for your support. □



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United for Venezuela

ORANJESTAD —February 23rd, 2019 is a very important day for Venezuela. Humanitarian aid will get into the country by air, land and sea. Over 100 countries have joined together and stockpiled aid. The Venezuelan military, which is currently under control of President Nicolás Maduro, must decide whether to allow aid to flow into the hands of needy Venezuelans.

Aruba is also part of this big movement. Venezuela's death toll rises day-by-day due to the shortage of food and medicine. A group of people will be gathering today at Simon Bolivar Plaza in Oranjestad between 10:00 Am and 12:00 PM to receive donations, like baby formula, vitamins, gloves, bandages, toothpaste, soap, shampoo, wheelchairs, etc. However donations of clothing, toys, sheets or shoes are not accepted. All materials donated will be sent to the gathering center in Curacao and afterwards forwarded to Venezuela.

A call for support is going out to the entire community of Aruba to participate in this humanitarian act. □



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Last but not least: check out our website and Facebook page! Thank you for supporting our free newspaper, we strive to make you a happy reader every day again.

For today's newspaper we received a great picture from:

Johnny & Cathy Babb
from **Madisonville, Kentucky.** They wrote:

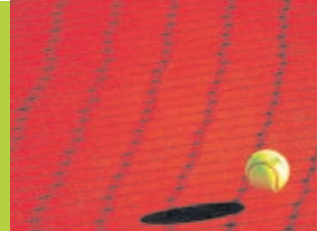
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SPORTS



Denny Hamlin celebrates with the Championship trophy in Victory Lane after winning the NASCAR Daytona 500 auto race at Daytona International Speedway, Sunday, Feb. 17, 2019, in Daytona Beach, Fla.
Associated Press

NASCAR's new rule package shrouded in unknowns before debut

By JENNA FRYER
AP Auto Racing Writer
HAMPTON, Ga. (AP) — NASCAR rolled into Atlanta Motor Speedway ready to begin a new era of racing that is shrouded in unknowns. Will it be racier? That's the point. Will it make Sunday's event at Atlanta exciting? That remains to be seen. "We don't have that answer. I can tell you that it will be drastically different than what we have done before," said Kevin Harvick, who routed the field to win last year's race. "I would hate to speculate on what the direction of it is going to be and what we are going to do because we don't know. That is good for everyone watching. We have more questions with zero answers, actually." The competition package for 2019 was not used in last week's season-opening Daytona 500 and a version of it will debut Sunday on Atlanta's abrasive 1.54-mile quad oval.

Continued on Page 22

VIVA LA MEXICO!

Dustin Johnson seizes the lead at WGC

Dustin Johnson hits the ball on the 3rd hole on the second day of competition of the WGC-Mexico Championship at the Chapultepec Golf Club in Mexico City, Friday, Feb. 22, 2019.

Associated Press
Page 18

Johnson builds 2-shot lead in Mexico as Woods rallies

By DOUG FERGUSON

AP Golf Writer

MEXICO CITY (AP) — Tiger Woods delivered the shot that had the gallery buzzing. Dustin Johnson produced the golf that left everyone chasing him.

Johnson made it through another round at the Mexico Championship without a bogey, and he was so efficient Friday that he putted for birdie on every hole, one of them from just on the fringe. It added to a 4-under 67 and a two-shot lead over Rory McIlroy and Matt Kuchar going into the weekend.

"Just hit a lot of fairways, hit a lot of greens," Johnson said.

The memorable moments belonged to everyone else, not all of them good.

Woods started to figure out Chapultepec Golf Club a little better in his second full round and made a collection of medium-length birdie putts for a 66 that got him back in the game, though still six shots behind. He would have liked one more, especially with the shot he hit at the end of his round. From a bunker right of the ninth fairway, a tree



Dustin Johnson watches his putt on the 2nd green on the second day of competition of the WGC-Mexico Championship at the Chapultepec Golf Club in Mexico City, Friday, Feb. 22, 2019.

Associated Press

in his path, Woods sliced a 9-iron from about 130 yards that caught the left side of the green with so much spin that it zipped sideways at the pin and rolled 10 feet by. He settled for a par.

"The ball was sitting down just enough where I didn't think I could clear that tree," Woods said. "I ended up going back to the 9-iron and realized, 'Geez, I've

really got to slice this thing.' So I opened up and gave it as much of a cut motion as I possibly could. And it worked out."

Johnson was at 11-under 131 on a course where he won two years ago, when he was No. 1 in the world and playing the best golf of his career. Johnson feels he is heading in that direction again, and the course suits

him — not for the length or how far he hits it in altitude, but for the thinking required.

"It makes you focus. You've got to think," he said. "And you're doing a lot of calculations with the numbers and trying to figure out how far the ball is going to actually go. So I enjoy it. It's pretty narrow, but it's tree-lined, so I do like that."

McIlroy (70) appeared to be the one to chase when he started with two straight birdies. He lost one shot when he went for the green on the par-5 sixth and his shot caromed off the hill and into the water. The real trouble came at No. 9 when he had a 15-foot birdie putt from the fringe. He ran it by the hole, caught the lip on his par putt and saw it roll just under 5 feet away, and he missed again. Four putts from 15 feet led to double bogey, and McIlroy's momentum was gone.

His attitude didn't change, though. He was two off the lead and liked where he was.

"It's funny, I had breakfast with a few of the boys that played later yesterday and they said it was going to be hard to hole putts in the afternoon, and they were right," McIlroy said. "I had a couple go the opposite way on me. I missed a couple short ones. But

overall, I stayed patient. After I made the double on 9, I sort of righted the ship and made a lot of pars and made one birdie.

"It could have been worse. It could have been better," he said. "But still in a good position going into the weekend."

Kuchar, going for the Mexican double having won the Mayakoba Classic last fall, started with four straight birdies on his way to a 67. But it was the guy in his own group, Tommy Fleetwood, who had the best start of the day.

Fleetwood drove onto the green at the par-4 opening hole and made a 20-foot eagle putt. He hit driver on the 384-yard second about 40 yards from the green, picked his spot and knocked that in for a second straight eagle.

It was the first time a player started a round eagle-eagle on the PGA Tour since Sean O'Hair in 2009 at this World Golf Championship when it was at Doral.

How about three in a row? Next for Fleetwood was a par 3.

"I missed the green," he said.

He wound up with a 65 that catapulted him into a tie for fourth with Sergio Garcia (66), four shots behind. Rickie Fowler had a 73, a reasonable score considering he had a triple bogey and a double bogey on his card, one shank that he couldn't imagine hitting and one penalty that left him fuming about the new rules.

Fowler hit a high shank with a wedge on the 10th hole, his first of the day, over the fence. But when he went to drop, he forgot the new rule requires a drop to be made from the knee. He dropped from the shoulder, realized his mistake on the green and received a one-shot penalty.

"It's on me. I took the shot. It was no big deal," Fowler said. "But I think with the new rules that have been put in place, it's not doing any favors for our sport."

He said it was "terrible" new rule and expects it to be changed. □

Shin birdies last hole to lead LPGA Thailand after 2 rounds

CHONBURI, Thailand (AP)

— South Korean golfer Jenny Shin snatched the lead at the LPGA Thailand with a birdie on the last hole of the second round at Siam Country Club Pattaya on Friday.

Shin bogeyed the sixth hole but sunk five birdies in the rest of the round, including the par-5 18th.

Her round of 4-under 68 put her at 11 under overall and one shot ahead of the field. Three players were tied for second: Lizette Salas of the United States (68), Minjee Lee of Australia (69), and first-round leader Eun-Hee Ji of South Korea (71).

Shin said she was feeling the heat and thought she could have played better.

"I wasn't hydrated enough this morning and I could feel it by late afternoon,"



South Korean golfer Jenny Shin watches the flight of her ball, during the LPGA Thailand golf tournament second round at Siam Country Club Pattaya, at Chonburi, Thailand, Friday Feb. 22, 2019.

Associated Press

she said.

"I could have made a few more putts. I will try to make sure I'm hydrated more tomorrow."

Salas said she was seeing the benefit of spending more time in the gym in the

offseason. "I'm not a rookie anymore, I'm a vet, so it's time to get serious," Salas said.

"I've found I can be more aggressive with the driving game and things are starting to pay off." □

Patriots owner Robert Kraft accused of soliciting prostitute

By **TERRY SPENCER and JOSHUA REPLOGLE**
Associated Press

JUPITER, Fla. (AP) — Robert Kraft, the billionaire owner of the New England Patriots, faces charges of soliciting a prostitute after he was twice videotaped in a sex act at a shopping-center massage parlor in Florida, police said Friday.

The 77-year-old Kraft denied any wrongdoing. The case comes amid a crack-down on sex trafficking from Palm Beach to Orlando in which police planted cameras in massage parlors.

Kraft was not immediately arrested. Jupiter police said a warrant will be issued and his attorneys will be notified. They said details about the misdemeanor charges against the owner of the Super Bowl champion team will not be released until next week.

Hundreds of arrest warrants have been issued in recent days as a result of the six-month investigation, and more are expected. Ten spas have been closed, and several people have been taken into custody on sex trafficking charges. Jupiter Police Chief Daniel Kerr said he was shocked to learn that Kraft, who is worth \$6 billion, was paying for sex inside a shopping-center massage parlor, the Orchids of Asia Day Spa. "We are as equally stunned as everyone else," Kerr said.

Most people charged for the first time with soliciting a prostitute in Florida are allowed to enter a diversion program, said attorney David Weinstein, a former prosecutor. Kraft would probably have to perform 100 hours of community service and attend a course on the harmful effects of prostitution and sex trafficking, he said.

The arrest could also get Kraft in trouble with the NFL, which in a statement said only that it is "aware of the ongoing law enforcement matter and will continue to monitor developments."

Under league policy, players, owners, coaches and other employees can be punished for "conduct detrimental to the integrity of and public confidence in" the NFL.

"Ownership and club or league management have traditionally been held to a higher standard and will be subject to more significant discipline," the policy says. The Patriots won the Super Bowl this month over the Los Angeles Rams for their sixth NFL championship in the past 18 seasons, making them the most successful team in pro sports during that span. Before the Super Bowl, several retired NFL players appeared in a public service announcement decrying sexual exploitation and human trafficking in Atlanta, the host city.

Kraft lives in Massachusetts and has a home in the Palm Beach area. Though he is a Democrat, he is friendly with President Donald Trump and a frequent guest at Trump's Mar-a-Lago club. Kraft's wife, Myra Hiatt Kraft, died in 2011. He has been dating 39-year-old actress Ricki Noel Lander since 2012.

"Well it's very sad. I was very surprised to see it. He's proclaimed his innocence, totally," Trump said at the White House on Friday.

In a statement, Kraft's representatives said they "categorically deny that Mr. Kraft engaged in any illegal activity."

The spa Kraft allegedly visited is in a busy, upper-middle-class shopping center with neighbors that include a dentist, a real estate office, surf and bike shops and a Publix supermarket. After hearing about the arrest, Brian Rubino, a Patriot fan who lives nearby, went by the spa wearing a team jersey. He said Kraft made a mistake, but he could see how it might happen.

"A 77-year-old man, lost his wife, who knows? I see how you can end up in a place like this," Rubino said.

Vero Beach police Chief David Currey, whose agen-

cy has been involved in the sex-trafficking investigation, told reporters earlier this week that the prostitutes are victims who have been trapped into the trade.

"These girls are there all day long, into the evening. They can't leave and they are performing sex acts," Currey said, according to TCPalm. "Some of them may tell us they're OK, but they're not."

The owner of Orchids of Asia Day Spa, 58-year-old Hua Zhang, was arrested Tuesday on 29 prostitution and related charges. Police in her arrest report said they watched video of her employees performing various sex acts with two dozen customers. Her attorney, Gennaro Cariglio Jr., had no comment.

Kraft, who made his initial fortune through a packaging company, bought the Patriots in 1994 for \$172 million to keep the team from moving to St. Louis. He hired Bill Belichick as coach in 2000, and the team later drafted quarterback Tom Brady, launching its nearly two decades of success.

In 2007, the Patriots got in trouble for filming other teams' signals. The NFL fined the team \$250,000 and Belichick \$500,000. In 2014, Brady was accused of deflating game footballs to gain a better grip. He served a four-game suspension, and the Patriots were fined \$1 million.

Kraft was not implicated in either scandal. □



In this June 7, 2018, file photo, New England Patriots owner Robert Kraft speaks with reporters following an NFL football minicamp practice, in Foxborough, Mass.

Associated Press

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Ovechkin's milestone goal leads Capitals past Toronto 3-2

By The Associated Press
TORONTO (AP) — Alex Ovechkin scored the 650th goal of his career and Braden Holtby made 40 saves as the Washington Capitals defeated the Toronto Maple Leafs 3-2 on Thursday night. Tom Wilson had a goal and an assist, and Brett Connolly also scored for Washington, which won consecutive games for the first time in two weeks. Lars Eller added two assists. Andreas Johnsson and John Tavares scored for Toronto. Frederik Andersen made 25 stops. The Leafs, who were playing at home for the first time since Feb. 6 following a season-long six-game trip that ended with a 3-2-1 record, entered 7-2-2 over their last 11, but had also dropped two straight. The Capitals, meanwhile, were 6-3-1 over their previous 10 after a 0-5-2 stretch that culminated with a 6-3 loss at Scotiabank Arena on Jan. 23.

LIGHTNING 2, SABRES 1
TAMPA, Fla. (AP) — Nikita Kucherov became the fastest player to 100 points in a season since Mario Lemieux, and he and Steven Stamkos scored in the shootout to lift Tampa Bay. Kucherov became the league's first 100-point player this season with his 30th goal. He got there in 62 games, one more than it took Lemieux in 1996-97. Andrei Vasilevskiy had 29 saves and stopped both shootout attempts he faced. The Lightning have won eight straight and earned points in 12 in a row (10-0-2). Rasmus Dahlin scored for Buffalo, and Carter Hutton stopped 39 shots. Kucherov is the first player in Lightning franchise history to record multiple 100-point seasons and is the seventh player in the past 20 years with back-to-back such campaigns.

SHARKS 4, PENGUINS 0
PITTSBURGH (AP) — Tomas Hertl scored a pair of first-period power-play goals, Martin Jones stopped 26 shots and San Jose took advantage of sloppy play

by Pittsburgh Penguins. Brent Burns picked up his 12th of the season, and Evander Kane added a

snapped. James Reimer stopped 21 shots in his fourth consecutive start. **DEVILS 4, SENATORS 0**

for Arizona, and Darcy Kuemper had 30 saves. Adam Gaudette tied it late in the third period for

gave up three goals on nine shots before being pulled 10:33 into the game. It was the second straight game Hart was yanked. Brian Elliott stopped 29 of 31 shots in relief.

PREDATORS 2, KINGS 1
NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP) — Roman Josi had a goal and an assist as the Nashville topped Los Angeles and moved atop the Central Division with its third win in four games. The Predators have 77 points, one more than Winnipeg (76), though the Jets have three games in hand on Nashville. Kyle Turris scored for Nashville, which also swept the season series with Los Angeles. Goalie Pekka Rinne made 28 saves for the win. Michael Amadio scored for the Kings, who are 0-4-2 in losing their sixth straight.

STARS 5, BLUES 2
DALLAS (AP) — Jamie Benn had his first multi-goal game since early October and Dallas ended St. Louis' franchise-record 11-game winning streak. When Benn scored the game's first goal 3:46 into the second period, the Blues trailed for the first time since Feb. 5 — a span of more than 517 minutes on the ice over 10 games. Radek Faksa and Alexander Radulov put Dallas up 3-0 with goals in a 65-second span midway through the second period. Tyler Seguin also scored for the Stars, who snapped a three-game losing streak in which they were shut out twice. Anton Khudobin stopped 43 shots while starting his seventh consecutive game for the Stars. Vladimir Tarasenko and Ryan O'Reilly scored for St. Louis.

OILERS 4, ISLANDERS 3, OT
EDMONTON, Alberta (AP) — Connor McDavid scored in overtime and added an assist as Edmonton snapped a five-game losing streak. Leon Draisaitl, Sam Gagner and Oscar Klefbom also scored for the Oilers, who have won two games out of their last 13. Anders Lee, Brock Nelson and Cal Clutterbuck scored for the Islanders, who have lost two straight.



Washington Capitals left wing Alex Ovechkin (8) celebrates his goal with teammates on the bench during second-period NHL hockey game action against the Toronto Maple Leafs in Toronto, Thursday, Feb. 21, 2019.

Associated Press

short-handed goal for the Sharks, who beat Casey DeSmith three times in the opening 14 minutes and kept the Penguins in check the rest of the way to sweep the season series from the team that edged them in six games in the 2016 Stanley Cup Final. The Sharks have won eight of 10 overall and pulled within one point of Calgary for the top spot in the Pacific Division. DeSmith finished with 29 saves, but Pittsburgh stumbled out of the gate and never recovered to lose for just the second time in six games.

HURRICANES 4, PANTHERS 3
SUNRISE, Fla. (AP) — Justin Williams had two goals and an assist and Carolina rallied for two goals down to beat Florida.

Nino Niederreiter had a goal and an assist, and Justin Faulk also scored a goal Florida, which has won seven of its last nine games. Peter Mrazek made 27 saves.

Aleksander Barkov, Evgenii Dadonov and Jonathan Huberdeau each had a goal and an assist for the Panthers, whose three-game winning streak was

NEWARK, N.J. (AP) — Cory Schneider made 30 saves in posting his first shutout since November 2017 and New Jersey beat undermanned Ottawa in a game in which both teams gave indications they were getting ready to make trades in the next few days.

Travis Zajac, Steven Santini, Kurtis Gabriel and Miles Wood scored for the Devils, who won for the third time in four games. Anders Nilsson had 27 saves for the Senators, whose 22-33-5 record is the worst in the NHL this season. Mark Stone, Matt Duchene and Ryan Dzingel, the Senators' first, second- and fourth-leading scorers, were all healthy scratches.

COYOTES 3, CANUCKS 2, OT
VANCOUVER, British Columbia (AP) — Alex Galchenyuk scored 1:54 into overtime on an impressive individual effort to lift Arizona over Vancouver. Galchenyuk used a sweeping deke to get around a defender, faked a move behind the net that fooled goalie Jacob Markstrom and stuffed the puck in against the near post. Jakob Chychrun and Lawson Crouse also scored

Vancouver. Bo Horvat also scored, and Markstrom stopped 35 shots.

WILD 4, RANGERS 1
NEW YORK (AP) — Zach Parise had a goal and an assist, and Minnesota ended a five-game skid with a win over New York. Mikael Granlund and Jared Spurgeon also scored and Jordan Greenway added an empty-netter. Devan Dubnyk made 33 saves for the Wild, who earned their first victory since Feb. 9 at New Jersey.

Pavel Buchnevich scored for the Rangers and Henrik Lundqvist made 31 saves.

CANADIENS 5, FLYERS 1
MONTREAL (AP) — Brendan Gallagher earned his first career hat trick and Montreal defeated Philadelphia.

Rookie Jesperi Kotkaniemi and Tomas Tatar also scored for the Canadiens, who won their second straight. Carey Price stopped 29 shots for his 25th victory of the season. Michael Raffl scored in the third period for the Flyers, who have dropped two straight after winning three in a row.

Flyers goalie Carter Hart

NBA-leading Bucks hold off Celtics 98-97

By The Associated Press

MILWAUKEE (AP) — Giannis Antetokounmpo scored 12 of his 30 points in the fourth quarter, Khris Middleton hit a 3-pointer in the closing seconds and the NBA-leading Milwaukee Bucks held off the Boston Celtics 98-97 on Thursday night.

On the second-to-last position, Marcus Smart forced a jump ball with Antetokounmpo. Antetokounmpo tipped the jump to Brook Lopez, who deflected it toward the basket, but missed as the shot clock expired.

The referees huddled during the timeout and put 3.5 seconds on the clock for the Celtics.

Smart inbounded the ball over the towering Lopez and dropped a pass into Kyrie Irving's hands at the top of the key. With Eric Bledsoe draped all over him, Irving drove the lane, seemed to stumble and missed an awkward shot as time expired. The Bucks won the season series 2-1, their first over the Celtics since 2014-15.

Antetokounmpo added 13 rebounds, Middleton had 15 points and a season-high 13 rebounds, and Malcolm Brogdon had 15 points for the Bucks. They have won 15 of the last 17 games, including nine of the last 10, to improve to 44-14. Hor-

ford added 21 points and a season-high 17 rebounds for Boston.

LAKERS 111, ROCKETS 106

LOS ANGELES (AP) — LeBron James scored 29 points, Brandon Ingram added 27 and the Lakers rallied from a 19-point deficit midway through the third quarter to defeat the Rockets.

The Lakers trailed most of the game and were down 95-88 with 7:49 remaining when they went on a 17-4 run over a six-minute span. James, who scored eight points during the run, gave Los Angeles a 99-97 lead with 4:15 remaining. They would lead by as many as eight in the final minute.

It is Los Angeles' sixth comeback victory this season when trailing by 15 or more at any point.

James Harden led Houston with 30 points, 10 rebounds and nine assists before fouling out with 1:24 remaining. It is his 32nd consecutive game where he has scored 30 or more points, overtaking Wilt Chamberlain for the second-longest streak in NBA history. Chamberlain also holds the record at 65 games.

WARRIORS 125, KINGS 123

OAKLAND, Calif. (AP) — Stephen Curry scored 36 points, hitting 10 3-pointers, and the Warriors survived a hectic finish to beat the Kings.

Kevin Durant added 28 points, nine rebounds and tied his career-high with seven blocks. DeMarcus Cousins had 17 points and 10 rebounds in his first game against his former team since signing with the Warriors this past offseason. The Warriors led most of the fourth quarter behind Curry's 11 points. The two-time MVP shot 12 of 23 overall and was 10 of 16 beyond the arc.

Sacramento trailed 123-117 with 25.5 seconds remaining but closed within 125-123 following back-to-back 3s by Buddy Hield.

After Andre Iguodala missed a pair of free throws, the Kings had a chance to tie but Hield shot an airball as time expired.

Marvin Bagley III had 28 points and 14 rebounds for the Kings.

76ERS 106, HEAT 102

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — Tobias Harris had 12 of his 23 points in the fourth quarter, JJ Redick hit a late 3-pointer and Philadelphia overcame All-Star center Joel Embiid's absence to beat Miami.

Ben Simmons added 21 points, Boban Marjanovic had 19 — including three free throws in the final 1 1/2 minutes — and Jimmy Butler 18. Embiid will be out at least a week with a sore left knee.



Milwaukee Bucks' Giannis Antetokounmpo, center, is fouled as he attempts to shoot against Boston Celtics' Marcus Morris, top, and Marcus Smart (13) during the first half of an NBA basketball game Thursday, Feb. 21, 2019, in Milwaukee.

Associated Press

Dwyane Wade scored 19 points for Miami, and Dion Waiters added 18.

Miami led 99-98 after Wade's runner with 1:56 left. Marjanovic made two free throws to put Philadelphia ahead 100-99. Following Wade's missed jumper, Redick made the 3 from the top of the key to make it 103-99 with 1:04 left.

Kelly Olynyk then missed a 3-point attempt, and Marjanovic made the first of two free throws with 38.3 ticks left to put Philadelphia up five.

CAVALIERS 111, SUNS 98

CLEVELAND (AP) — Cedi Osman scored 19 points, Kevin Love had 16 points and 11 rebounds and Cleveland sent Phoenix to its franchise-record 16th straight loss.

NBA-worst Phoenix (11-49) topped the record of 15 set March 2- April 1, 2018. The Suns' last victory was Jan. 12 over Denver.

Love played 22 minutes in his third game since returning from foot surgery. He was 6 of 13 from the field. Devin Booker scored 30 points for Phoenix, and Kelly Oubre Jr. had 23. □

Towns out with concussion for 1st missed game of his career

By BRIAN MAHONEY

AP Basketball Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Karl-Anthony Towns is missing a game for the first time in his career, unable to play for Minnesota against the Knicks on Friday night following a car accident.

The All-Star forward was placed in the concussion protocol earlier in the day, ending his streak of 303 consecutive games started.

Coach Ryan Saunders said the streak was never discussed when he talked



Team LeBron's Karl-Anthony Towns, of the Minnesota Timberwolves, heads to the hoop against Team Giannis' Giannis Antetokounmpo, of the Milwaukee Bucks, during the first half of an NBA All-Star basketball game, Sunday, Feb. 17, 2019, in Charlotte, N.C.

Associated Press

with Towns earlier Friday, and there was no hope of extending it once Towns entered the concussion protocol. A player can only return then once he has passed a battery of tests and been symptom free. I think that is something that everybody should definitely take note of with Karl's durability and his toughness and how he approaches the game, but from a coach's viewpoint you'd like to have like Karl on the floor whenever you can." Towns had played in his

second consecutive All-Star game before he was involved in a car accident on his way to the airport. He was cleared to fly and arrived in New York and originally ruled questionable, but after further examination he was placed in the concussion protocol. Towns had started every game since being the No. 1 pick in the 2015 draft, the longest streak to begin a career since 1970-71. The New Jersey product would have been playing close to home Friday. □



In this Feb. 16, 2019, file photo, NBA Commissioner Adam Silver speaks during NBA All-Star festivities in Charlotte, N.C.
 Associated Press

AP source: NBA, union forward talks on ending 'one-and-done'

By **TIM REYNOLDS**
 AP Basketball Writer

MIAMI (AP) — The NBA and its players are continuing to move forward on plans to eliminate the "one-and-done" rule in college basketball, something that the sides have been working toward for months.

The league has sent a proposal to the National Basketball Players Association on lowering the minimum age for entering the NBA draft from 19 to 18, and the union discussed the contents at a meeting in the Bahamas earlier this week, a person with knowledge of the matter told The Associated Press on Thursday. The person spoke to the AP on condition of anonymity because neither side released the proposal publicly.

USA Today Sports first reported the proposal being sent.

The proposal changed hands before All-Star weekend and long before Duke star Zion Williamson, quite possibly the No. 1 pick in this year's draft, got hurt Wednesday night. Williamson was diagnosed Thursday with a Grade 1, or minor, sprain of his right knee. Williamson, a freshman, is widely expected to be in the NBA next season and forgo his final three seasons of collegiate eligibility.

Neither the league nor the players' union has hidden the fact that both sides want the current system changed. NBA Commis-

sioner Adam Silver said last July that it was time to revert back to the policy that will allow players to go into the league right out of high school, something that will have to be collectively bargained with the players. The NBPA has had previous talks with the NBA on the idea, which is likely to be in place by the 2022 draft.

"I think it's a good idea," Boston's Jayson Tatum, who went to the NBA after one season at Duke, said at All-Star weekend. "If you're good enough to come out of high school, I feel like you should be able to. But I don't make those decisions."

"I don't understand the point of it," Cousins said about the 'one-and-done' rule. "What's the difference between 18 and 19 and 17 and 18? You're immature, you're young, you're ignorant to life in general. So what's really the difference? You've still got a lot of growing to do as a man."

The one-and-done rule has been in place since the 2006 draft. Silver, who was once a proponent of raising the draft minimum age to 20 before changing his mind, said last year that he believes the league and the players "can create a better system." The G League also introduced a plan last year to begin offering "select contracts" worth \$125,000 to elite prospects who are not yet eligible for the NBA. □



Multiple cars crash in turn 3 during the NASCAR Daytona 500 auto race at Daytona International Speedway, Sunday, Feb. 17, 2019, in Daytona Beach, Fla.
 Associated Press

NASCAR's new rule

Continued from Page 17

The lower-horsepower, high-downforce and high-drag formula is designed to slow the cars, bunch them together and create a more entertaining product. But Atlanta is an anomaly in that its racing surface is one of the oldest in the series and was last repaved in 1997. It is rough and bumpy, quickly eats away at tires and is typically a handful even for the veterans.

In simplest terms, Sunday's race may look nothing like how the package races the rest of the season.

"This track is unlike any other track, as we all know, with the surface and bumps and the character," said Jimmie Johnson, who leads all active drivers with five previous wins at Atlanta.

"My focus has been to get drivability right and then make speed a secondary item. We'll see how it all plays out. This package is so new to all of us."

An early version of the package was used in last year's All-Star race to rave reviews from fans that prompted NASCAR to implement it for this season. Roughly half the field tested the package last month at Las Vegas Motor Speedway, where NASCAR races

next week, and the venue that is expected to be a truer indicator of what the competition might look like the rest of the season.

It's made Atlanta a mystery as teams spent Friday trying to figure out how to attack the track with this competition package.

"Sunday you will find out, I guess, if somebody spansks the field," said Atlanta native Chase Elliott. "Until then, I am really not sure what we are going to have. I'm sure there is going to be guys that get it better than others to start, but I think as time goes, everybody is going to continue to develop and make it better and improve their cars and their packages for these race tracks."

"I think Atlanta, too, is a little different than some other mile-and-a-half tracks we are going to visit with the surface. I think your car is probably going to have to drive a little better here than it might at other places." The field Sunday will be three drivers short of the 40-car limit, with Gaunt Brothers Racing the only team without one of the charters that guarantees a spot in the field to come from Daytona to Atlanta. Parker Kligerman, the NBC Sports reporter who is trying

to get back into a full-time ride, is back in the car after successfully making last week's Daytona 500.

The 37 cars is the lowest since the road course at Watkins Glen last August, but up one car from the field at the Atlanta race last February.

Corey LaJoie came to Atlanta with bonus funding from Old Spice, which got a strong return on its investment from its Daytona sponsorship that featured LaJoie's entire face on the hood of his car. Acorns, an online investment app, is making its NASCAR debut as sponsor for Ryan Newman and Bubba Wallace, driving for cash-strapped Richard Petty Motorsports, has a one-race deal at Atlanta with McDonalds.

Garrett Smithley, with three previous Cup starts, is making his season debut in the car owned by new team Spire Motorsports. Spire at the end of last year bought the charter held by defunct Furniture Row Racing — and its one of the most valuable entrants in the series. Furniture Row won the 2017 championship with Truex Jr. to rank that charter, now owned by startup Spire, on the top end of the financial payouts in NASCAR's system. □



France's Alexis Pinturault celebrates at the finish area of an alpine ski, men's World Cup combined, in Bansko, Bulgaria, Friday, Feb. 22, 2019.

Associated Press

World champion Pinturault wins season- long combined title

BANSKO, Bulgaria (AP) — Alexis Pinturault added the season-long World Cup title in Alpine combined Friday to the world championship title he won 11 days ago. The Frenchman won the discipline's season-ending race after his main rival, Marco Schwarz of Austria, picked up an injury in the super-G portion and was forced to skip the slalom. "I am really happy but also a little bit disappointed because Marco got injured," Pinturault said. "I wanted to have a great fight. This is bad news. It is a really happy end for me but I think also about Marco." Schwarz, who was leading the combined standings after winning the only previous race in Wengen last month, hurt his left knee after landing a jump shortly before the super-G finish. The Austrian ski team said Schwarz would travel

back to Austria for medical checks later Friday. The runner-up in the standings, Victor Muffat-Jeandet of France, didn't finish his slalom run and also failed to score points. Pinturault acknowledged he changed his tactics after Schwarz went out and other rivals failed to put pressure on him. "After the super-G I knew there were no real contenders," he said. "I had to control my skiing. The main point was to finish my (slalom) run." Pinturault, the 2018 Olympic silver medalist, has now won five season titles in Alpine combined, matching the World Cup record set by Kjetil Andre Aamodt of Norway 17 years ago. The Frenchman is now also the only male skier to win at least one combined event in seven consecutive World Cup seasons. □



Switzerland's Belinda Bencic celebrates after winning over Ukraine's Elina Svitolina during their women's singles semifinals match of the Dubai Duty Free Tennis Championship in Dubai, United Arab Emirates, Friday, Feb. 22, 2019.

Associated Press

Bencic tops 2-time Dubai champ Elina Svitolina; Kvitova in final

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates (AP) — As Belinda Bencic fell into a dangerous deficit in the Dubai Championships semifinals, she threw her racket and yelled at herself. One game from losing to two-time defending champ Elina Svitolina, Bencic was about to do what she's been doing all week: getting out of trouble and coming back to win. Bencic stopped Svitolina's bid for a third consecutive title at the hard-court tournament Friday by beating her 6-2, 3-6, 7-6 (3). The 45th-ranked Bencic won her third match in a row after trailing against a top-10 opponent and now will face yet another, two-time Wimbledon champion

Petra Kvitova, in Saturday's final. "I kind of like these dramatic matches," Bencic said with a laugh after erasing a 5-3 hole in the third set against No. 6 seed Svitolina. "I don't know why." Kvitova advanced to her third final of 2019 by edging Hsieh Su-wei 3-6, 6-2, 6-4. The No. 2-seeded Kvitova picked up her tour-high 17th victory of 2019. Bencic, a 21-year-old from Switzerland, is seeking her third career title. Kvitova is trying to win her 27th; she is 26-8 in finals. Kvitova has won all three previous matchups between the two players in straight sets, including a 6-1, 6-4 win in the third round of the Australian Open last

month. Kvitova was the runner-up in Melbourne. Bencic is having quite a run in Dubai. She saved six match points against eighth-seeded Aryna Sabalenka in the third round, then came back after dropping the opening set to beat third-seeded Simona Halep in the quarterfinals. So it really wasn't anything new when Bencic broke while Svitolina served for their match at 5-4 in the third, then ran away with the tiebreaker, ending the match with a backhand lob winner on the run. "I feel like I've been playing better when I'm 3-5 down. So probably I should try (that in my) next match, as well," Bencic joked. □

Suzuki starts likely last spring opener with a hit for M's

By JACK THOMPSON
Associated Press

PEORIA, Ariz. (AP) — Ichiro Suzuki still felt the nerves of competition at age 45. Suzuki started what may be his final spring training with a two-run, two-out single in the third inning Friday of the Seattle Mariners' opening 8-1 win over the Oakland Athletics. Batting seventh and play-

ing left field, Suzuki fouled out in the second inning against Liam Hendriks and singled in the third off left-hander Ryan Buchter. Suzuki then was replaced by a pinch runner. He did not have any chances in the field. The Cactus League opener, delayed a day by Thursday's rainout, was between the teams that meet in the season's open-

ing series on March 20-21 in Tokyo. A 10-time All-Star who won the AL Rookie of the Year and MVP awards in 2001, Suzuki spent his first 12 major league seasons in Seattle, went on to play for the New York Yankees and Miami, then returned last season. He hit .205 in 44 at-bats before moving to a front-office role in early May. □



Seattle Mariners right fielder Ichiro Suzuki warms up in the outfield before the second inning of a spring training baseball game against the Oakland Athletics, Friday, Feb. 22, 2019, in Peoria, Ariz.

Associated Press

Film fan finds the real joy of movies is still in theaters

By ANICK JESDANUN
AP Technology Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Sure, it's easy to Netflix and chill these days. Or Prime and recline. Or Hulu and ... well, whatever. But if you really want to savor a film, there's still no substitute for a movie theater.

Turns out that there are few better ways to rediscover the joy of heading to the theater than a year of free movie tickets, courtesy of MoviePass. Among the greatest attractions: no distractions from Facebook, online chats, household chores and what not.

I was a regular moviegoer until ticket prices rocketed past \$10 several years ago. In New York, \$15 is now common; some theaters can charge \$18 or \$19, even before 3D and other surcharges. Streaming at home became far more affordable — and convenient. Who has time to go to the movies when you're already behind on Netflix, Hulu, Amazon and everything else?

But then came a too-good-to-be-true subscription deal from MoviePass, a promotion that offered a daily movie for a year for just \$94. With ticket prices no longer an issue, I ended up seeing 181 movies — including most of the Oscars contenders. Those movies



This Aug. 23, 2018, file photo shows Movie Pass debit cards and used movie tickets in New York. This Aug. 23, 2018, file photo shows Movie Pass debit cards and used movie tickets in New York.

Associated Press

would have cost me \$2,747 without MoviePass. That's 52 cents per film, a 97 percent discount from \$15. The deal was so good that MoviePass no longer offers it.

That MoviePass subscription has expired, but I've already seen 42 movies on other subscriptions this year — a mix of Sinemia, AMC A-List and memberships with individual theaters. It's costing about \$60 a month in all, far more than the \$8 a month with MoviePass — but all worth it.

I confess I have it easier

than many people. Having no kids means no worries about babysitters and bedtime. I can squeeze in a 10 p.m. showing after a night out with friends.

Once the lights dim, it's just the movie and me.

When watching Netflix, you need discipline to put your phone or laptop away. I've sometimes had to consult Wikipedia for a plot point I missed because I was responding to a text or reading about the next movie to watch. Even folding laundry takes your eyes off the screen.

And while it's convenient to be able to stream movies in bits and pieces, as time permits, that detracts from their rhythm and pacing. Some movies, such as the Netflix drama "Roma," are meant to feel slow and deliberate, but you lose that feeling if you multitask on Facebook. The Netflix thriller "Bird Box" just doesn't feel right without the proper buildup of suspense.

Costumes and landscapes come to life on the theater's big screen. Rock climber Alex Honnold's nerve-wracking, rope-free

ascent of the gigantic Yosemite rock formation El Capitan in "Free Solo" wouldn't have been the same on a phone. This documentary was even worth watching a second time, in the mega-size Imax format. Then there was "Cold War," a Polish drama on romance in the Eastern Bloc. It was filmed in black and white in the boxy, 4-by-3 frame used by TV screens of that era. That gives the movie a nostalgic feel, even though it just came out. With streaming, video sometimes gets squeezed or stretched to match the dimensions of the TV or phone.

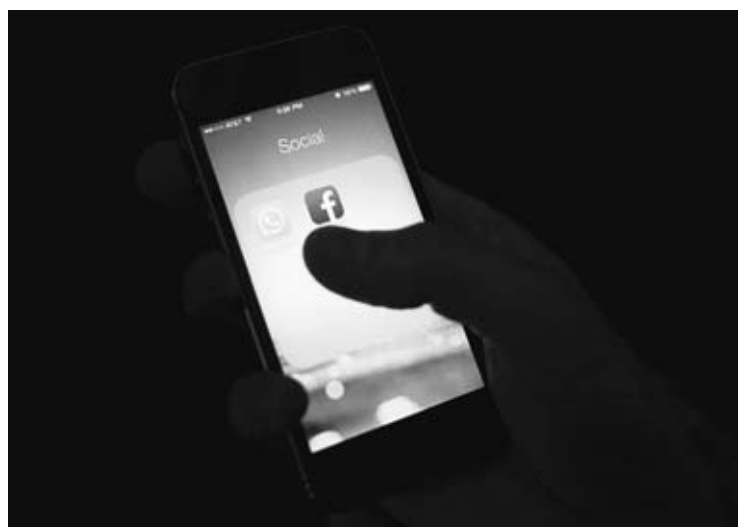
Sound quality at many theaters far exceeds what I could get at home. That became clear watching — and hearing — "Bohemian Rhapsody," about the rock band Queen, and "A Star is Born," a Lady Gaga-led drama on a singer's rise to fame.

True, theaters can still be a hassle. You have to be there at showtime — and then big theater chains show nearly a half-hour of trailers. (I typically read an e-book at low brightness or catch up on podcasts.) Coordinating schedules with friends can also be complicated, though if you're OK watching movies alone, that doesn't have to be a problem.

Report: Apps send sensitive user data to Facebook

By MAE ANDERSON
AP Technology Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Several phone apps are sending sensitive user data to Facebook, including health information, without users' consent, according to a report by The Wall Street Journal. An analytics tool called "App Events" allows app developers to record user activity and report it back to Facebook, even if the user isn't on Facebook, according to the report. Facebook did not immediately respond to a request for comment. It told the Journal that some of the data-sharing appears to violate its business terms.



This Feb. 19, 2014, file photo shows the Facebook app icon on an iPhone in New York.

Associated Press

The company says it requires app developers to be clear with users about

what they share. Criticisms over privacy intensified nearly a year ago follow-

ing revelations that the now-defunct Cambridge Analytica data-mining firm accessed data on some 87 million Facebook users without their consent. The U.S. Federal Trade Commission has been investigating that flap as well and is reportedly in negotiations with Facebook over a multibillion dollar fine.

Hours after the Journal story was published, New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo directed the state's Department of State and Department of Financial Services to "immediately investigate" what he calls a clear invasion of consumer privacy. The Democrat also

urged federal regulators to step in to end the practice. The data-sharing is related to a data analytics tool that Facebook offers developers. The tool lets developers see statistics about their users and target them with Facebook ads.

According to the Journal, Instant Heart Rate: HR Monitor; Flo Health, which tracks a woman's period and ovulation; and real-estate app Realtor.com were among the apps that sent data to Facebook. The Journal found that the apps did not provide users any way to stop the app from sending their information to Facebook.

Millennial Money: Make your funds move at the speed of life

By **SEAN PYLES**

Associated Press

Change is constant — especially when you're young. Chances are you'll cycle through a few moves, job changes and romantic relationships as you establish your life as a young adult. Each development in these three big areas of your life brings financial challenges, too. You might need a new wardrobe for the dream job you just landed. Dating isn't cheap and moving is almost always expensive, no matter how far you go. Here are ways to manage the cost of change.

HOUSING CHANGES

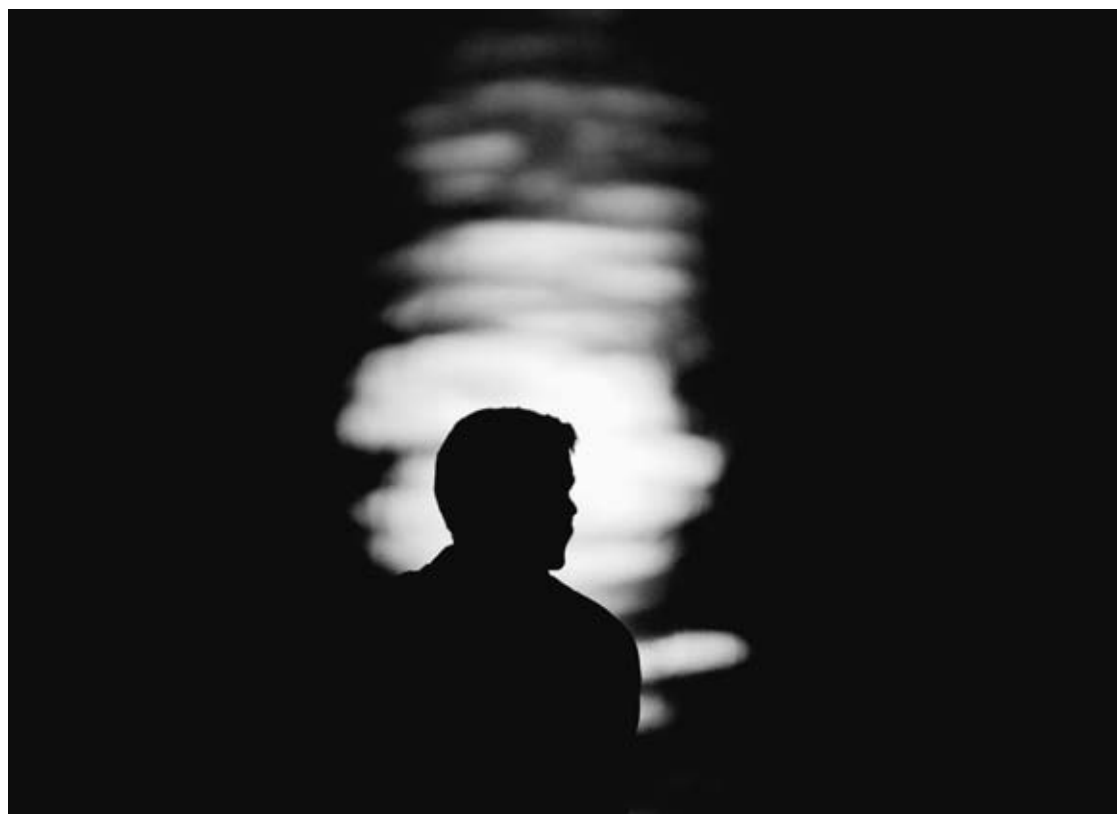
Moving is a logistical and financial challenge, but you can mitigate some of the stress and expense.

"Having a plan is always key," says Lacey Langford, an accredited financial counselor. "Think through the steps of your move and the costs that go along with it."

The earlier you start planning, the more time you have to research, minimize and save for expenses you identify.

Try out a few easy ways to save money:

COMPARE MOVERS. Prices vary among moving companies. Some will require more movers to haul your stuff or higher hourly rates, which can drive up the



In this June 27, 2018, file photo a man is silhouetted against moonlight reflecting off the Missouri River as he watches the full moon rise beyond downtown buildings in Kansas City, Mo.

Associated Press

price. Check the prices of three to five before choosing.

THINK BEYOND DIY MOVING TRUCKS. Hauling stuff on your own? Rather than using one of the go-to truck rental companies, check out rental car companies. See whether you can save money by selling or donating nonessential items and moving only what fits in a rental van. Depending on your move, you could save hundreds.

SHOP USED. Rather than

buying a new sofa or area rug, check out local antique shops or secondhand stores. You may be able to save money and get a unique item at the same time.

RELATIONSHIP CHANGES

Relationship changes could mean your and your partner's money is moving closer together — or further apart. Whether you're shacking up or breaking up, the key to managing finances is communication.

JOINING FINANCES. First,

have a deep, honest conversation. Talk about your money history, including things like how your parents managed their money, your current financial standing and your future financial goals, advises wealth psychology expert Kathleen Burns Kingsbury.

"Having this conversation does three things: First, it breaks the money silence. Second, it helps you understand each other's money mindsets, and third, you get buy-in on how you're going

to pay bills and take on financial challenges," Burns Kingsbury says.

Next, plan how you want to handle your joint finances. Burns Kingsbury suggests checking in every six months or so to keep the dialogue going and ensure the plan is working for both of you.

SEPARATING FINANCES.

Breaking up has added complexity when you've commingled finances. But a level head — and outside help if needed — can make it less painful.

Sit down and talk through each account you share, Burns Kingsbury advises. Come to an agreement about how you'll handle things like co-signed loans and authorized usership on accounts. Consider bringing in a third-party mediator to facilitate the conversation if you can't do it amicably. A trusted friend or financial coach could be helpful.

A NEW JOB

Job changes can advance your career and bump up your pay. But there may be financial trade-offs.

"A new job can be exciting, but take the time to not make an impulsive decision," says Thomas Nitzsche, communications lead at Money Management International, a credit counseling agency. □

Global shares mixed as investors watch trade talks

By **YURI KAGEYAMA**

Associated Press

TOKYO (AP) — Global shares were mixed Friday as nervous investors await developments in the U.S.-China trade talks in Washington.

European shares rose, with France's CAC 40 gaining 0.3 percent in midday trading to 5,212. Germany's DAX was up 0.6 percent at 11,487 and Britain's FTSE 100 rose 0.5 percent to 7,204.

U.S. shares were set to open higher as Dow futures rose 0.5 percent to 25,970. S&P 500 futures also rose close to 0.5 percent, to 2,786.

A hodge-podge of recent economic data is fueling



A visitor sits in front of private stock trading boards at a private stock market gallery in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, Friday, Feb. 22, 2019.

Associated Press

concerns over risks to global growth and the world's two biggest economies are locked in a trade war spurred by U.S. contentions that China uses predatory tactics in a quest to

overtake U.S. technological dominance, including pressuring American companies to hand over trade secrets and in some cases stealing them outright.

The Trump administration

has warned it will increase its import taxes on \$200 billion in Chinese goods from 10 percent to 25 percent if the two sides haven't reached a resolution by March 2. But Trump in recent days has signaled a willingness to extend the deadline if negotiators are making progress.

"The trade talks do appear to have made some progress. However, a run of weak data from Japan, Europe and the U.S. yesterday took the wind out of the equity market sails," said Jeffrey Halley, senior market analyst at OANDA. **KRAFT HEINZ TROUBLE:** Shares in Kraft Heinz

plunged 20 percent before the opening bell Friday. The company disclosed an investigation by federal regulators and said it will slash the value of its Oscar Mayer brands by \$15.4 billion, leading to a \$12.6 billion loss for the fourth quarter.

THE DAY IN ASIA: Japan's benchmark Nikkei 225 inched down 0.2 percent to finish at 21,425.51. Australia's S&P/ASX 200 gained 0.5 percent to 6,167.30. South Korea's Kospi was unchanged at 2,230.50, while Hong Kong's Hang Seng rose 0.5 percent to 28,762.75. The Shanghai Composite gained 1.9 percent to 2,804.23. □

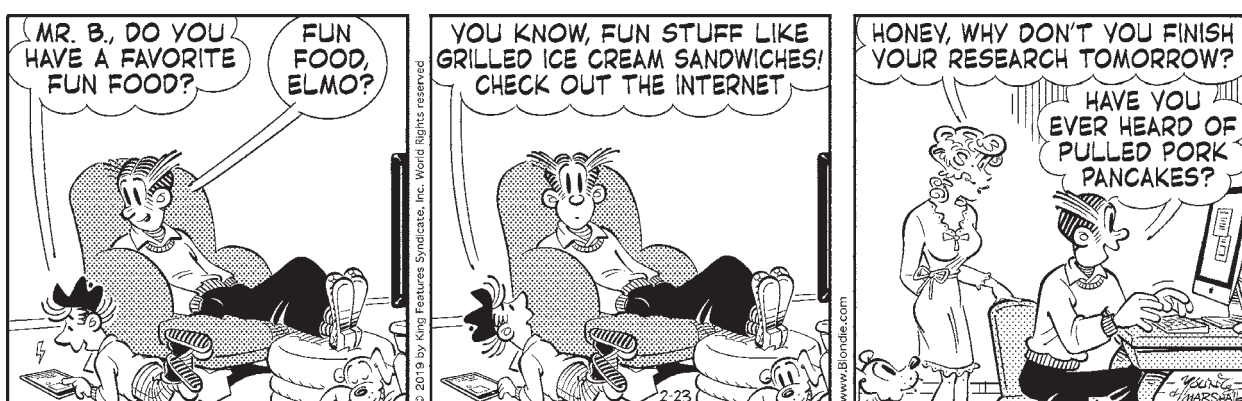
Mutts



6 Chix



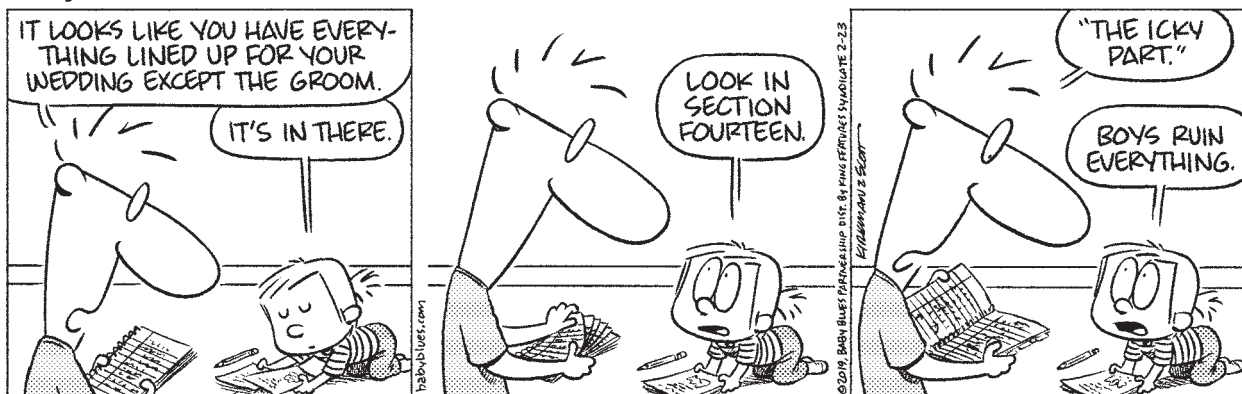
Blondie



Mother Goose & Grimm



Baby Blues



Zits



Conceptis Sudoku

			5				
		9		6		7	
3			8		7		1
		7				4	
5	3			1			6
		8			9		
2			3		5		8
		5		7		1	
			9				

Difficulty Level ★★★★★

2/23

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Sunday.

Yesterday's puzzle answer

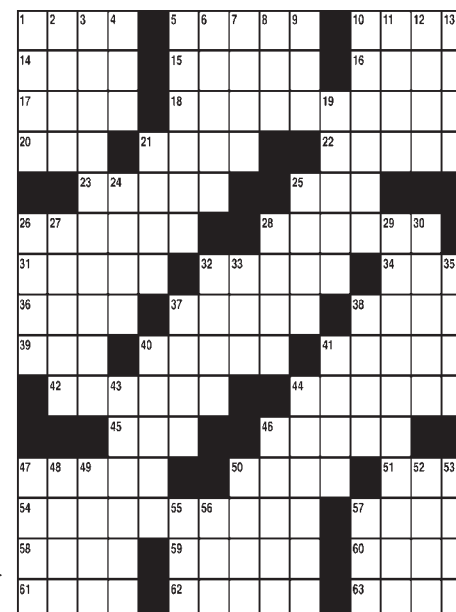
5	9	6	1	7	3	4	2	8
1	8	7	4	6	2	5	9	3
2	3	4	5	8	9	7	6	1
6	1	2	7	9	8	3	5	4
9	7	8	3	5	4	6	1	2
3	4	5	2	1	6	8	7	9
4	5	3	9	2	7	1	8	6
8	2	1	6	3	5	9	4	7
7	6	9	8	4	1	2	3	5

ACROSS

- Bank vault
- Largest city in Nebraska
- Skillful
- Fibbed
- __ bear; white animal
- Boast
- Upper limbs
- Owning
- Sorority letter
- Unexceptional
- Minds
- Racket
- Item for confession
- Morphine or codeine
- Praying __; bug-eating bug
- Desires
- Put on, as a play
- Pasture cry
- TV crime drama series
- Keaton or Sawyer
- Taler
- "Ready, __, go!"
- Winnie-the-Pooh's creator
- Hair color
- Bundle of energy
- Maracas material
- Spanish cheer
- __ out; say without thinking
- Man of the cloth
- Unruly tyke
- Fore and __
- __ ads; newspaper section
- Patella's place
- The __; London's subway
- Day before tomorrow
- Like gooey cinnamon rolls
- Observes
- Canary food
- Prescriptions, for short

DOWN

- Strike with open palm
- Haightness
- Womanliness
- Ames & Asner
- Fight against
- Antlered animal
- Too
- __-been; one no longer popular
- "You __ what you eat"
- Not in class on a school day
- Soft cheese
- "...tis of Thee, sweet __ of liberty..."
- Breakfast order
- Rise's partner, in phrase
- Takes a load off
- Feed bag morsels
- Wise man
- __ up; admits purchase
- Walked the floor
- Lion's neck hair
- Significance
- Of __ mind; rational
- Farm building
- Brown shade
- Chances
- U.S. coin
- Insulting remark
- Soda shop orders
- Boxing match
- Lasso loops
- __ Knight and the Pips
- Bakery purchase
- Deeds
- Unhappy
- __ in the woods; innocent one
- __ one's time; wait
- Nourish
- Koppel & Knight
- "Complicated"; Meryl Streep film
- Enemy
- One of the Kardashians



Created by Jacqueline E. Mathews

2/23/19

Friday's Puzzle Solved

MIND	SHOW	PALE
ERODE	PEAR	ADAY
MOVES	INTERLACE	
ONA	CAR	TEAMED
SCALE	CAT	
RECAPS	SHREDS	
AROSE	TOTEM	EAR
MOTH	PILED	BLUE
PSI	SHEEP	PIECE
EASTER	PLACED	
PEA	JOUST	
ECHOES	ADS	ADO
CHARLATAN	EBBED	
RUST	NOPE	SALAD
UMAS	TEES	REDS

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2/23/19



This Feb. 18, 2019 photo provided by Ben Lepe shows Maleah Ballejos reunited with her dog Kingston in Paradise, Calif.

Associated Press

Dog reunited with family 101 days after California wildfire

Associated Press

PARADISE, Calif. (AP) — A dog named Kingston is back with his family 101 days after he jumped out of their truck as they fled a devastating Northern California wildfire.

The 12-year-old Akita was reunited Monday with the Ballejos family, who fled the town of Paradise late last year, Sacramento televi-

sion station KXTV reported. "When I found out, (it) just about brought me to tears," said Gabriel Ballejos, Kingston's owner. "I'm so proud of him. I can't believe it. He's a true survivor, and it's a testament to the American spirit."

Ballejos said they never lost hope and kept posting flyers and contacting shelters. □

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Wks 5 & 6/1315 (\$18,000/wk)
Wks 5 & 6/1521 (\$20,000/wk)
Wk 7/1308 (\$18,000)
Wks 7 & 8/1408 (\$18,000)
Wk 8/1113 (\$17,000)
Wk 8/1409 (\$17,000)
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Israel flying to moon after SpaceX launch

By **MARCIA DUNN**

AP Aerospace Writer

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla.

(AP) — An Israeli spacecraft rocketed toward the moon for the country's first attempted lunar landing, following a launch Thursday night by SpaceX.

A communications satellite for Indonesia was the main cargo aboard the Falcon 9 rocket, which illuminated the sky as it took flight. But Israel's privately funded lunar lander — a first not just for Israel but commercial space — generated the buzz.

Israel seeks to become only the fourth country to successfully land on the moon, after Russia, the U.S. and China. The spacecraft — called Beresheet, Hebrew for Genesis or "In The Beginning" — will take nearly two months to reach the moon. "We thought it's about time for a change, and we want to get little Israel all the way to the moon," said Yonatan Winetraub, co-founder of Israel's SpaceIL, a nonprofit organization behind the effort.

The moon, nearly full and glowing brightly, beckoned

as it rose in the eastern sky. Within an hour after liftoff, Beresheet was already sending back data and had successfully deployed its landing legs, according to SpaceIL.

"We'll keep analyzing the data, but bottom line is we entered the very exclusive group of countries that have launched a spacecraft to the moon," said Yigal Harel, head of SpaceIL's spacecraft program. Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu was watching the launch live from the Israeli control center in Yehud, near Tel Aviv.

"This is a big step for Israel, but a giant step for Israeli technology," he said.

The four-legged Beresheet, barely the size of a washing machine, will circle Earth in ever bigger loops until it's captured by lunar gravity and goes into orbit around the moon. Touchdown would be April 11 at the Sea of Serenity.

NASA's Apollo missions in the 1960s and 1970s took about three days to get astronauts to the moon, but they used monstrous Saturn V rockets. The \$100 million

Beresheet mission couldn't afford its own rocket — even a little one — so the organizers opted for a ride share. That makes for a much longer trip; the moon right now is nearly 230,000 miles (370,000 kilometers) away.

"This is Uber-style space exploration, so we're riding shotgun on the rocket," Winetraub explained at a news conference on the eve of launch.

The U.S. Air Force also has a small research spacecraft aboard the rocket, for a one-year mission in orbit around Earth.

The Soviet Union was the first to put a spacecraft on the moon, Luna 2, in 1959. NASA followed with the Ranger 4 spacecraft in 1962. Last month, China became the first country to land on the far side of the moon.

Apollo 11 moonwalker Buzz Aldrin quickly offered congratulations following Thursday's launch. So did NASA Administrator Jim Bridenstine, who called it "a historic step for all nations and commercial space as we look to extend our collabora-



A SpaceX Falcon 9 rocket lifts off with Israel's Lunar Lander and an Indonesian communications satellite at space launch complex 40, Thursday, Feb. 21, 2019, in Cape Canaveral, Fla.

Associated Press

rations beyond low-Earth orbit and on to the moon." NASA has a laser reflector aboard Beresheet and is offering its Deep Space Network for communication.

"All the best to @TeamSpaceIL as it starts its journey tonight on a @SpaceX #Falcon9 from Florida to my old stomping ground ...the

moon," Aldrin tweeted.

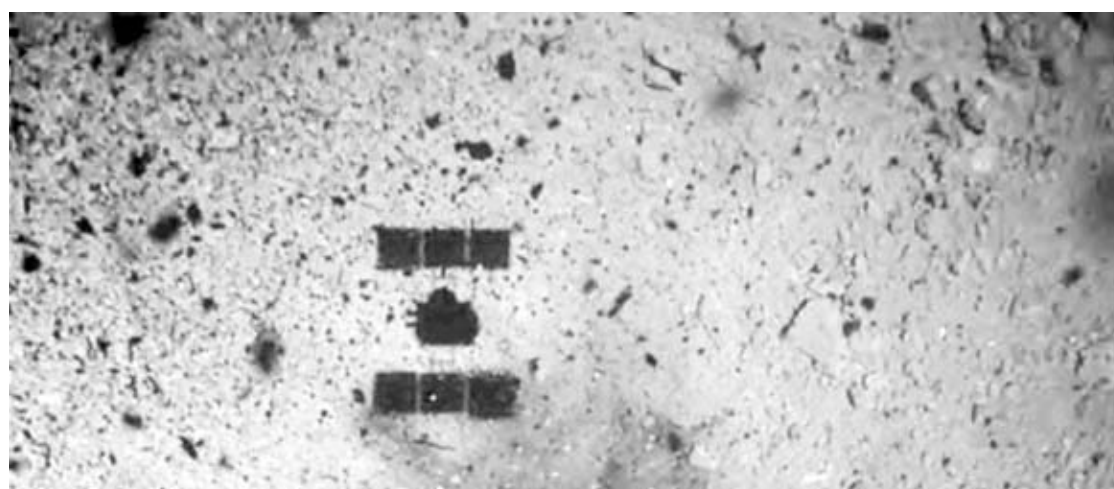
The Beresheet mission originally was part of the Google Lunar XPrize competition and even made the final cut before the contest ended last year without a winner. The organizers decided to press ahead on their own, with donations from billionaires as well as schoolchildren. □

Japanese spacecraft touches down on asteroid to get samples

TOKYO (AP) — A Japanese spacecraft touched down on a distant asteroid Friday on a mission to collect material that could provide clues to the origin of the solar system and life on Earth. Workers at the Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency control center applauded Friday as a signal sent from space indicated the Hayabusa2 spacecraft had touched down.

During the touchdown, Hayabusa2 is programmed to extend a pipe and shoot a pinball-like object into the asteroid to blow up material from beneath the surface. If that succeeds, the craft would then collect samples to eventually be sent back to Earth. Three such touchdowns are planned.

Japanese Education Minister Masahiko Shibayama



This image released by the Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA) shows the shadow, center above, of the Hayabusa2 spacecraft after its successful touchdown on the asteroid Ryugu Friday, Feb. 22, 2019.

Associated Press

said the space agency had concluded from its data after the first touchdown that the steps to collect samples were performed successfully.

JAXA, as the Japanese

space agency is known, has likened the touchdown attempts to trying to land on a baseball mound from the spacecraft's operating location of 20 kilometers (12 miles) above the asteroid.

The asteroid, named Ryugu after an undersea palace in a Japanese folktale, is about 900 meters (3,000 feet) in diameter and 280 million kilometers (170 million miles) from Earth. □

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This Feb. 20, 1939 file photo shows Fritz Kuhn, national leader of the Bund, in the full uniform of a Storm Trooper, as he speaks from the rostrum at Madison Square Garden in New York.

Associated Press

Documentary about 1939 Nazi rally in New York up for Oscar

By KAREN MATTHEWS
Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — A crowd of 20,000 gives the Nazi salute as swastikas flank a giant portrait of George Washington.

Unimaginable to most Americans, the pro-Hitler rally that took place 80 years ago this week inside New York's Madison Square Garden is the subject of a short documentary that's up for an Oscar. The seven-minute film shows Fritz Kuhn, the leader of the pro-Nazi German American Bund, decrying "the Jewish-controlled press" and demanding "a socially just, white, gentile-ruled United States."

Documentary filmmaker Marshall Curry said that after learning about the 1939 Bund rally, which he could barely believe had happened, he asked a researcher friend to help him locate archival footage of the Feb. 20, 1939, event.

"Once he pulled it all together and I saw it, I thought it was very surreal and frightening, and I wanted to find a way to make something of it and share it with the world," Curry said.

Curry sees parallels to 2019, when Republican President Donald Trump calls news organizations enemies of the people and anti-Jewish attacks are increasing. The anniversary of the rally comes as New York police report a 72 percent increase in hate crimes in the city over the past year, with anti-Semitic

crimes making up almost two-thirds of the total of 55. In "A Night at the Garden," mounted police officers hold back protesters outside the Garden, about a mile north of the arena's present-day location and where the marquee advertises "Pro American Rally" along with a New York Rangers hockey game the following night.

Inside, people in suits and dresses cheer as Kuhn calls for "gentile-controlled labor unions, free from Jewish Moscow-directed domination." A protester rushes the stage and is tackled and beaten by uniformed Bund troops.

Curry said he considered using a narrator but "ultimately almost on a whim I edited it together as if it were a verite documentary where you dropped the audience into this rally and you had to figure out what was going on. I found that it was more compelling that way."

Daniel Greene, a Northwestern University historian who curated an exhibit at the U.S. Holocaust Museum on Americans' response to the Holocaust, said the Madison Square Garden rally was one of the most important events in the relatively short life of the German American Bund, which aimed to build support for a fascist America.

"You have about 20,000 people inside, and some people estimate that there were about 100,000 protesters on the street outside," Greene said. □

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Coalición Ayuda y Libertad Venezuela

Rita Moreno on playing a sassy grandma, 'West Side Story'

By MARK KENNEDY

Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Rita Moreno plays one of TV's best villains. Or is she one of its snidest heroines? Either way, her sass grandmother on the Netflix reboot of "One Day at a Time" is truly a funny concoction.

Her Lydia wears make-up to bed, has a gun on hand and still is seductive in her 80s. "I came out of the womb wearing stilettos," she purrs in a Cuban accent. The show has retooled Norman Lear's old sitcom for a Latin family.

Moreno, one of the rare EGOT winners, is enjoying a purple creative patch lately with the show's third season and an upcoming role in the Steven Spielberg-led remake of "West Side Story," for which Moreno won an Oscar as Anita in 1961.

The Puerto Rican-born actress recently spoke to The Associated Press about her sassy Netflix role, the regrets she had doing the original "West Side Story" and her thoughts on the #MeToo movement.

AP: You're clearly having



This July 29, 2018 file photo shows actress Rita Moreno, a cast member of the Netflix series "One Day at a Time" posing for a portrait during the Netflix portrait session at Television Critics Association Summer Press Tour in Beverly Hills, Calif.

too much fun with this Netflix character. In one scene, you try to hit on your own daughter's boyfriend.

Moreno: She's shameless. This woman, Lydia, is absolutely shameless. She's vain. She's a bit of a liar when it's convenient. The

interesting thing about this character is that she has a lot of negatives on her side but people love her. People love her because of her foibles.

AP: After the role was offered, you asked for something, didn't you?

Moreno: I did ask a favor. I

Associated Press

said, 'I know she's a grandmother and I know she's supposed to be in her late 70s, but she has to be sexual. Otherwise I'm not interested.' And they loved the idea. So now they've really taken advantage. Sometimes I say, 'You really want me to say that?'

AP: Why was her sensuality important to you?

Moreno: I think it's because it's not seen enough on television and because people have an odd notion of what a woman of 80 — well actually I'm 87. I'm playing younger. She's supposedly about 77, 78 something like that. And you don't see that but it exists. And that's why I insisted that she be a sexual being.

AP: Are there any drawbacks to playing her?

Moreno: The difficult part of playing this particular role is that she's very big. She's very theatrical. She's a diva and it's very easy to go too far with that. So I'm always constantly on the look-out and I'm always saying 'I don't think she'd say that' to the writers.

'That just seems arbitrary' or whatever. And then we have to have a discussion about that. Sometimes they agree with me. And sometimes they'll play along with me.

AP: You'll soon revisit "West Side Story." Any regrets about the original, particularly the way they handled the racial aspect?

Whimsy and boundary-pushing from Peter Mulvey

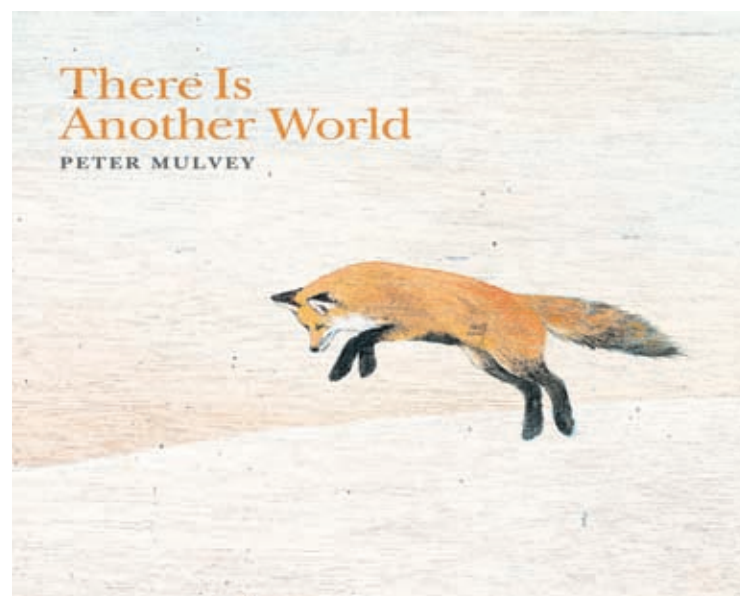
By STEVEN WINE

Associated Press

Peter Mulvey, "There Is Another World" (Righteous Babe)

Midway through Peter Mulvey's new album, he sings about the ravages of time on the tune "Nickel and Dime." It lasts 15 seconds. Mulvey always brings to his work whimsy and a willingness to push folk boundaries, and that's the case on "There Is Another World."

The Wisconsin songwriter-guitarist quotes Yeats, Rilke and Greg Brown, and that's just in the liner notes. There's also a literary bent to the lyrics, which can be cryptic or opaque but benefit from imagery that's vivid and sometimes beautiful. On the love song "Owl," he describes two birds who "both dropped into the air."



This cover image released by Righteous Babe Records shows "There Is Another World," a release by Peter Mulvey.

Associated Press

Mulvey pairs his words with inventive arrangements anchored by his fingerpicking and by producer Todd Sickafoose's standup bass, with further color provided

by violin, pedal steel, accordion, clarinet and wine glass rims. Unusual chord progressions lend further unpredictability to the proceedings.

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Met Opera to hire all-black chorus for 'Porgy and Bess'

By **RONALD BLUM**
Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — The Metropolitan Opera will hire an all-black outside chorus next season for its first presentation in nearly three decades of the Gershwins' "Porgy and Bess," which opens the season on Sept. 23. Performances of "Porgy and Bess," which premiered in 1935, are licensed by the Gershwin family, which specifies an all-black cast. "Certainly it's more complicated, but it's worth the complications because it's such a great piece," Met general manager Peter Gelb. "Porgy," by George and Ira Gershwin, and DuBose and Dorothy Heyward, depicts a crippled beggar in a poor African-American community of Charleston, South Carolina. When the Met presented "Porgy" for the first time in 1985, it also hired an outside chorus — at the time, there were three black members of the Met's regular chorus of 81. That has increased to six in a group of approximately the same total now, the Met said. "I think the Met is regarded as an institution that is colorblind when it comes to casting," Gelb said. "We



This undated image released by the Metropolitan Opera shows Eric Owens as Porgy, left, and Angel Blue as Bess in the Gershwins' "Porgy and Bess."

have many African-Americans and other black artists who are appearing on our stage in major roles." The Hungarian State Opera created controversy last year when it presented an unauthorized production with a largely white cast. Donald Palumbo, the Met chorus master, said about

400 people had auditioned for the "Porgy" chorus since November and 68 would be chosen for rehearsals that start Aug. 5. "We will have two existing choruses at the same time in the building," he said. "It's going to be interesting but it's going to be a lot of fun. I'm hoping that

they will interact as much as possible." Eric Owens and Angel Blue head the opening-night cast, which is conducted by David Robertson and includes Denyce Graves, Latonia Moore, Golda Schultz and Ryan Speedo Smith. Then-Met music director James Levine insisted on an

Associated Press

uncut version for the 1985 Nathaniel Merrill production. That staging, which appeared 54 times through 1990, was presented in three acts with 3 hours of music and two intermissions for a total of 4 hours. "It doesn't feel excessively long," Robinson said. "The original version just really goes on and on and on." The last of the 13 performances on Feb. 1 will be broadcast to movie theaters around the world. A revival already is scheduled in an upcoming season. "Porgy" is among five new-to-the Met stagings next season. Yannick Nezet-Seguin, starting his second season as the Met's music director, leads Berg's "Wozzeck" opening Dec. 27 in a William Kentridge production first seen at the 2017 Salzburg Festival in Austria. He also conducts revivals of Massenet's "Werther" and Puccini's "Turandot," which will mark the Met's first regular Sunday performance on Oct. 6. There will be 16 Sunday matinees next season, and the Met plans 23 in 2020-21 and 27 in 2020-21. Nezet-Seguin plans to conduct as many as six productions in 2020-21. □

DuVernay, Zendaya help Vanity Fair toast Women in Hollywood



Ava DuVernay attends VH1 Trailblazer Honors 2019 at the Wilshire Ebell Theatre on Wednesday, Feb. 20, 2019, in Los Angeles.

Associated Press

By **LINDSEY BAHR**
Associated Press

LOS ANGELES (AP) — By the time filmmaker Ava DuVernay got to Vanity Fair and L'Oréal's Women in Hollywood pre-Oscars event Thursday night, she had already been to two other events that day. Not only that, she had to be "on" at each — they all had her name on the invitation. Such is the life in the days leading up to the Academy Awards Sunday, where it can often seem like there are more parties than there are nominees to go around. Although DuVernay was a little tired, she was excited for Vanity Fair — a name which has become almost synonymous with Oscars for the magazine's famed post-show party. But for DuVernay it was another reason. As a co-host, she got to invite her own batch of friends and peers to the chic garden rooftop of the West Hollywood Soho House, where guests surrounded by pink roses and a canopy of trees sipped on their champagne and Belvedere vodka

cocktails while overlooking the must-see jetliner views of Los Angeles. DuVernay co-hosted the gathering with Vanity Fair editor Radhika Jones and Zendaya, where they mingled with guests like Lupita Nyong'o, Linda Cardellini, #MeToo founder Tarana Burke, Maude Apatow and Storm Reid, who starred in DuVernay's "A Wrinkle in Time." Many guests found themselves event-hopping Thursday before Oscars weekend swings into full gear, and there were many to choose from. Just a few blocks away Allison Janney and Tiffany Haddish could be spotted at Cadillac's annual party at the Chateau Marmont. Like DuVernay, "RBG" filmmakers Julie Cohen and Betsy West also came from Diane von Furstenberg's luncheon for female Oscar nominees to the Vanity Fair reception. But a third event was not in store for Cohen and West, both New Yorkers, who decided instead to save their energy for the next few days. □



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